

Govt Brought Paper Leak Bill To Pacify Youth, Not To Address Issue: Kcharge

NEW DELHI, JUL 30: Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday accused the government of bringing the amendment to the anti-paper-leak law only to pacify the agitating youth, not to address the issue.

Speaking on the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, Kharge said the government has not explained how it would conduct examinations that could prevent paper leaks. Epaper Subscription Service

He said that provisions for higher fines, stricter punishment, and fast-track courts would not make any difference in cases of paper leaks.

What would make a difference, he argued, is how the government conducts these examinations.

Kharge added that unless institutions and the examination system are reformed and accountability is fixed, paper leaks will continue to occur, and "we will be discussing the same thing here



again". "Paper leaks hurt innocent students and their parents," Kharge said.

He asserted that Rahul Gandhi had raised the issue of paper leaks during his Bharat Jodo Yatra and that the Opposition had also demanded a stringent law in 2024, when the bill was first passed. However, he alleged that the government enacted the law in haste for political reasons. "Now, within two years, you have to amend it. But it is still incomplete," Kharge said.

Congratulating the youth for forcing the government to remove Dharmendra Pradhan as Education Minister,

he said that because of their strong voice, along with the Opposition's protests in Parliament, the government finally bowed to their demands.

He claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had to remove Pradhan to save his own chair.

Kharge criticised the government's unwillingness to engage in dialogue, saying young people seeking discussions were labelled anti-nationals, lathi-charged, tear-gassed, and injured so severely by pellet guns that many required ICU admission. He also criticised the absence of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister from

the House, saying neither had spoken despite the unrest.

"I felt ashamed. I don't know if he felt ashamed. Who is responsible for the atrocities against students?" he asked. "People's power will drag him out."

He said that if the Home Minister could not answer questions about who ordered the lathi-charge and tear-gas attack on students, and who the people in plain clothes beating students were, then the Home Minister should resign.

Kharge also raised the issue of police action in states such as West Bengal and Bihar, alleging that students there were fired upon with AK-47 rifles.

He further alleged that paper leaks had occurred several times across the country during the Modi government's tenure, but the government remained asleep.

He also claimed that the main accused in the 2024 NEET paper leak case was given a clean chit. (Agencies)

Centre working with Arunachal, Nagaland govts to deal with flood challenges: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, JUL 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the Centre will keep working with the governments of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland to address the challenges arising out of floods in the two Northeastern states. Modi said this after meeting with a group of MPs from Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.

"Had a meeting with MPs from Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland. We talked about the situation in these states in the wake of floods there. The Central Government will keep working with the respective state Governments to address the challenges. Praying for everyone's well-being and safety," he said in a post on 'X'.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, who also attended the meeting, said that the prime minister assured the MPs full assistance and has already given necessary directions for ensuring timely relief and support for the affected people.



"The Members of Parliament from Arunachal Pradesh & Nagaland met Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi ji at Parliament House, New Delhi & apprised him of the prevailing flood situation in both states. Hon'ble PM assured full as-

sistance & has already given necessary directions for ensuring timely relief, restoration & support for the affected people," Rijiju said on 'X'.

Both Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland have witnessed heavy rains and landslides leading to loss of lives

and damage to properties.

Due to the heavy rains in Nagaland and some parts of Assam, three districts of Assam saw massive floods leading to deaths of over 70 people, affecting more than three lakh people and inundating a large area. (Agencies)

Shah must have issued orders to use force on students on July 20 in Delhi, he should quit: Dipke

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR, JULY 30: Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Thursday claimed orders to use force against students during the July 20 "Sansad Chalo" march must have come from Union Home Minister Amit Shah and sought his resignation over the police crackdown.

Talking to reporters at his residence in hometown Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar in central Maharashtra, he said democracy was in "danger" in the country and questions were being raised even on judiciary, while central probe agencies were being used to break political parties.

"Saving democracy is not merely an Opposition issue now. The people of the country will have to come together (to save it)," Dipke insisted on his return home after more than a month-long CJP-led protest in New Delhi's Jantar Mantar over the NEET exam paper leak, which culminated in the resignation of then-Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Digital Newspaper Access

"There is a question mark even on judiciary. We all have seen how ED and CBI were used to break parties like the Shiv Sena and the NCP. The big institutions in the country had a duty to keep democracy alive and not create dictatorship of a single man. They let it happen. To stop this, not only the Opposition, but even the people will have to come together," he asserted.

The 30-year-old activist criticized the appointment of Pralhad Joshi as new Education Minister and called him a "weird" man.



"If the Education Minister of the country applauds rapists, this means another weird man has been brought in after removing Dharmendra Pradhan. What message is being given to the country? They cannot do anything else because their party is full of goons. People like Ram Rahim (a rape convict) come out on parole during their tenure. This government supports goons and rapists," he alleged.

Asked about Yoga guru and entrepreneur Ramdev's comments that Gen Z, which led the stir at Jantar Mantar, has defamed India's culture. Dipke took a dig at him and advised him to look after the business of his company Patanjali Ayurved.

The CJP founder insisted his outfit's protest over the NEET paper leak was constitutional. "We have fought for our rights against the paper leak in a constitutional way. If agitating with photos of Mahatma Gandhi and B R Ambedkar in a legal way is defaming culture, we have done it. Baba Ramdev should look into Patanjali about which the Supreme Court has made adverse comments in the past," he maintained.

"Gen Z can handle the country and its culture well. He (Ramdev) should concentrate on Patanjali else it may go out of business," Dipke remarked.

He supported the demand for Shah's resignation made by Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi.

"Amit Shah should definitely resign. There is another thing being said: that the Cockroach Janta Party is receiving funding from outside or that the movement is being run from outside. If this is happening then it reflects the failure of a person like Amit Shah. If the CJP is being run from outside then what kind of 'Chanakya' is he? The order to use force against students on July 20 must have been issued by Amit Shah and no one else," Dipke claimed.

Dipke assured he will stand with farmers if they need CJP support in their agitations.

"Farmers also want their children to have successful careers. Earlier they stood with us in our agitation. If farmer leaders require our support, we will stand with them. Wherever farmers need us, we will stand with them. I also belong to a

farmer family. Many of us are from farmer families," he stated.

Dipke opined the police force in the country should not follow BJP orders, but go by the Constitution.

"If not, they (police force) should switch to 'khaki chaddi' (half pants) and stand before the BJP headquarters, saying 'main bhi chowkidar'," the CJP said mockingly.

"If the police fear video recording from agitators, that means they have something wrong going on in their minds. Cameras were there on my face round the clock (during Delhi stir), but I did not fear. The police in this country should follow the Constitution. They don't belong to a party but they belong to the country. They are not those who will run on BJP's WhatsApp forwards," he affirmed.

Dipke alleged the Delhi Police brought trucks filled with stones near the agitation place (Jantar Mantar) and later falsely claimed it was debris from a construction site.

"Trucks filled with stones were brought by the Delhi Police on Jul 19 and 20 morning at around 5:30. I have seen that personally. A damaged van was also brought and parked there. I asked the police about it and also made an X post questioning this.

"This was part of a plan by the police to show that the agitating students did stone pelting. I also met the DCP (of the area) over it and I was told the truck was carrying debris from a construction site. This all may have been part of a plan by BJP goons and the Delhi Police," he alleged. (PTI)

stantiate the findings. have not disclosed names of any AI platforms allegedly accessed, nor have they said whether any digital devices have been forensically examined to establish such searches.

The July 20 protest witnessed clashes between protesters and security personnel at multiple locations, including Parliament Street, Connaught Place and Jantar Mantar in the New Delhi district after demonstrators allegedly attempted to breach police barricades.

NEW DELHI, JULY 30: In a scathing attack on the BJP-RSS, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday said regardless of "violence, hate and division" spread in the country by them, the soul of the country is imbued with brotherhood and unity, which will not change. Geographic Reference

Her remarks in the Parliament House complex came in response to a question on the Indian men's and women's hockey team jerseys being changed to saffron jerseys instead of their traditional blue kits.

Asked about the issue, the Congress general secretary said, "They may change the uniform, they may try to change the history through the education policy, they can do whatever they want, but you have seen what the youth think about this."

"The youth that had gathered at Jantar Mantar, what were they saying about this? That is the voice of the country," Gandhi told reporters.

The fight for the freedom of this country was based on truth and non-violence and the RSS was nowhere in the



picture, she said. Gandhi said the entire country knows the truth, and those who did not know are getting to know the intentions of the BJP-RSS.

Congress under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi had carried out the freedom movement, she said.

"The soul of this country is imbued with truth, non-violence, brotherhood and no one can change that," Priyanka Gandhi asserted. Neither the RSS nor anyone

else can change that, she said.

"No matter how much violence, hate and division they may spread, the soul of the country that has brotherhood, mutual harmony and unity cannot be changed," Gandhi said.

The Indian men's and women's hockey teams will be seen in saffron jerseys instead of their traditional blue kits at next month's FIH World Cup in the Netherlands and Belgium, a change

Will keep resisting attempts to widen scope of post-facto environmental clearances: Cong

NEW DELHI, JUL 30: The Congress on Thursday said it will keep resisting every attempt to widen the scope of post-facto environmental clearances and remain steadfast in defending the core principles of environmental law.

The opposition party's assertion came a day after the Supreme Court observed that protective environmental checks cannot be altered by issuing administrative orders, as it quashed a 2021 office memorandum permitting the Centre and other authorities to grant retrospective clearances to projects that commenced without obtaining the green nod.

Congress leader and former environment minister Jairam Ramesh said that in May 2025, a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court delivered a milestone judgment for environmental law.

"It held that prior environmental clearance is mandatory and that post-facto approval mechanisms created by the 2017 Notification and 2021 Office Memorandum rewarded illegality, undermined the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, and violated the

principles of sustainable development and the right to a clean environment," he said on X.

"The Union Government sought a review. It argued that the judgment would disrupt projects worth crores that had already commenced without prior clearance. In a concerning turn, a three-judge bench entertained the review in open court without explaining why the matter warranted departure from the usual review process," Ramesh said, adding that it "recalled" the May 2025 judgment. History

Justice Ujjal Bhuyan dissented, warning that there is "no concept of ex-post facto environmental clearance in environmental law" and that such approvals are "an anathema" to environmental jurisprudence, Ramesh recalled.

"The Supreme Court's judgment pronounced yesterday, holding that executive instructions (2021 Office Memorandum) cannot override the statutory EIA Notification, is a step in the right direction," the Congress general secretary said. "But it also permits the government to create a

statutory mechanism for post-facto environmental clearances in 'exceptional circumstances', circumstances that the government is free to define," Ramesh said.

From Great Nicobar to the Ken-Betwa project, and from mining in Odisha to extractive projects in Chhattisgarh, communities are resisting a familiar pattern -- governments and corporations treating environmental law as an inconvenience to be navigated rather than as essential rules to be complied with, Ramesh said.

"Over the last 17 years, I have lent my voice and support to a large constituency of concerned citizens and several public campaigns opposing dilution of India's hard-won environmental protections," he said. "We will continue to resist every attempt to widen the scope of post-facto environmental clearances and remain steadfast in defending the core principles of environmental law, which carry at their core a commitment to the marginalised," Ramesh said. A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Jus-

that has been questioned by former captain Viren Rasquinha.

Unveiling the new jersey on its social media pages, Hockey India said the design and colour of the jersey are meant to "tell a story" and carry "India's pride". It said the colour saffron symbolises courage, sacrifice and victory.

The move to change the colour of the main jersey from blue to saffron didn't go down well with former India captain Viren Rasquinha.

"I must say that Hockey India has done many good things for... But this is embarrassing. The legacy and identity of the Indian team has always been BLUE. I wore the Blue jersey with pride for many years. Fans want to see our Indian team in blue. What is the logic of orange?" Rasquinha, who is also the CEO of Olympic Gold Quest, wrote on 'X'. "My simple & humble point is on pride, identity & legacy."

But the national federation defended the decision, saying there is nothing wrong in choosing saffron as it is a "part of our tricolour". (PTI)

Probe Into CJP Protest Examines Alleged AI-Assisted Tactics: Delhi Police Sources

NEW DELHI, JUL 30: Investigation into the July 20 clashes during the "Chalo Sansad" protest organised by the CJP has revealed that some protesters may have used AI tools to learn methods of countering police crowd-control measures, including use of wet jute bags to minimise effects of tear gas, police sources said on Thursday.

According to the source, the ongoing investigation has indicated that some participants may have searched artificial intelligence (AI)

platforms for information on mitigating the impact of tear gas, and preparing for confrontations with security personnel.

"The investigation is being carried out through multiple methods. We have reasons to believe that some protesters used AI tools or other generative AI platforms to search for ways to immediately reduce the effects of tear gas, including use of wet jute bags, and to prepare themselves with hard hats, masks and goggles," the source said. He said police are in the

process of collecting evidence, which is a time taking process.

Police are also probing the alleged distribution of hard hats, face masks and protective goggles among protesters before and during the demonstration, with the source claiming these items may have been intended to help participants withstand police action during the violence.

The source said investigation is underway and police teams were collecting digital and other evidence to sub-