

Shoe hurled at Pappu Yadav, man armed with knife detained; MP claims attempt on his life

NEW DELHI, AUG 02: Independent MP from Bihar's Purnea, Pappu Yadav, was targeted while addressing a press conference at his official residence in New Delhi on Sunday. A knife was also recovered from one of the assailants.

A person allegedly threw a shoe at him, leading to a scuffle between his supporters and the attackers. The confrontation comes days after the Opposition's Ram Mandir skit that was performed on the Parliament premises.

The accused have been identified as Sumit, a resident of Shahpani village in Sikandrabad tehsil of Bulandshahr district in Uttar Pradesh, and Happy. Both were detained after Sumit allegedly attacked Yadav.

The incident triggered chaos at the venue, with pushing and shoving breaking out between Yadav's supporters and the protesters after the shoe was thrown. Police have started an investigation into the matter and are verifying the sequence of events at the press conference, including whether the accused arrived at the venue carrying a knife.

A knife was also recovered from Yadav's supporters.

Speaking to the media, Yadav claimed that the accused had come to kill him. "He



came to kill me with a knife. There was a conspiracy to kill me. I did not insult Sanatan. I was attacked at my residence. Given the size of the knife recovered during the attack, I would not have survived," Yadav said.

Yadav's media coordinator Zaid Khan said, "When the knife was drawn to attack, our supporters and associates tried to restrain the assailant. I came between the attacker and Pappu Yadav, and I was severely beaten. The Delhi Police stood by and allowed the beating to happen. The police did not help Yadav."

Congress Rajya Sabha MP Pawan Khera said, "The

Delhi Police seems remarkably efficient when it comes to repressing students peacefully demanding their constitutional rights. But when it comes to protecting a vocal Opposition leader — even a sitting Member of Parliament — at his own residence, it suddenly falls short. Ever since Anurag Kumar took charge as Delhi's Police Commissioner, the force's record has gone from bad to worse." Last week, Opposition members staged a satirical skit on the Parliament premises to criticise the government over the alleged theft of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. History In the skit, Yadav was

dressed as a priest and sat beside a donation box. Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi was seen dropping money into the box. Yadav then bowed at the feet of Samajwadi Party MP from Ayodhya, Awadhesh Prasad, and ran away with the donation box, symbolising the alleged theft of donations.

Seers in Haridwar strongly objected to Yadav's protest over the alleged donation theft at the temple, describing the act as disrespectful to Hindu religious traditions. Religious leaders of Juna Akhara announced nationwide protests against the MP.

PM Modi speaks of 'forgiving' students; govt owes them justice, apology: Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI, AUG 02: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks of "forgiving" students, but it is the government that owes the students truth, justice and an apology.

Gandhi made the remarks in an Instagram post as he shared a video of his interaction with the families of Gopika, Roshini and Vetri Anandan, who committed suicide following the NEET paper leak and cancellation, during his visit to Tamil Nadu on Saturday.

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said, "During my visit to Tamil Nadu, I met the families of Gopika, Roshini and Vetri Anandan, three young medical aspirants whose lives were lost following the NEET paper leak and the cancellation of the examination. Each family was left with the same painful question: why should honest, hardworking students pay the price for a dishonest system?"

A leaked paper led to a cancelled examination, a forced NEET re-exam and unbearable pressure on young minds, Gandhi said.

Behind every statistic is a child with a dream and a family now living with an irreplaceable loss, he said.

"I listened to their pain. Our fight is for an education system where hard work is respected, examinations are



fair and no student is pushed to the edge because institutions failed them," the former Congress chief said.

"The Prime Minister speaks of 'forgiving' students. After listening to these parents, my conviction is even stronger: India's students need no forgiveness. The government owes them truth, justice and an apology," Gandhi asserted.

In the video, Gandhi is seen interacting with the families of the students who committed suicide.

In Mamallapuram, interacting with the relatives of those who took the extreme step vis-a-vis NEET, Gandhi said, "Nothing is more painful than seeing a parent grieve their child. Geo-

graphicReference "Behind every young life lost is a family carrying pain that will never leave them and serious questions about a broken education system. Leaked papers. Cancelled exams. Years of preparation destroyed overnight. Our students are told to work honestly in a system that is not honest with them.

"The tears of parents who have lost their children, their wailing; there is no greater sorrow than this. This grief will live with them forever and along with it remain many questions about this broken and corrupt education system," he had said in a post on X. Referring to paper leaks and cancelled exams, he said, "Prime Minister has

the audacity to talk about forgiving the students."

"Has he even met a single grieving family who has lost their child, or those whose entire savings, life, time and dreams have been snatched away by paper leaks? The answer is no! India's students do not need the Prime Minister's forgiveness; Modi ji should apologise to them," the Congress leader said.

In a video message on Friday, Modi said he and his late mother were subjected to abusive language at Jantar Mantar during the protests over alleged NEET irregularities. He asserted that dragging such "misguided children" to court would not solve the problem and hence, he wanted to forgive them.

Students continue protests in Ranchi over JPSC, JSSC exam irregularities, demand CBI probe

NEW DELHI, AUG 02: Hundreds of students continued their protest for the fifth consecutive day in Ranchi on Sunday over alleged irregularities in the 14th JPSC examination, JSSC-CGL and other recruitment tests, demanding a CBI probe and reforms in the recruitment agencies.

The protesters, who have been holding an indefinite sit-in at a stadium since July 29, raised slogans such as 'Order CBI probe in JPSC', 'Long live Students Unity' and 'Shame on Hemant Soren'.

"Paper leaks in JPSC have happened several times. This time, OMR sheets of candidates have been leaked. Chief Minister Hemant Soren has ordered a CID probe, but we are not satisfied," JPSC aspirant Rahul Kumar Kranti said.

He alleged that previous probes into the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission (JSSC)-CGL paper leak had not led to action and claimed that the latest investigation

could also be "covered up" after a few months.

"We have completely lost faith in the ongoing CID probe. We demand a CBI probe into all recruitment examinations conducted by the JPSC and JSSC over the past seven years. We also demand the chief minister's resignation on moral grounds," Kranti said.

The protesters are demanding cancellation of the 14th JPSC Combined Preliminary Test held on April 19 and an independent probe by central agencies, including the CBI and Enforcement Directorate (ED), into alleged irregularities in recruitment examinations conducted by the JPSC and JSSC. They are also demanding the introduction of a fifth option of "not attempted" in OMR sheets.

"The careers of thousands of students and aspirants are at stake due to corruption in both agencies. Most of us come from farmers' families. We only want fair opportunities based on merit," said

Ankit Kumar from Giridih district.

Sneha, a tribal student from Ranchi, said protesters wanted strict punishment for those involved in alleged irregularities and cancellation of the 14th JPSC examination.

"I have been preparing for competitive examinations since 2023. But if an equal and fair chance is not given, how can I get a job? I urge CM Soren to listen to our demands," she said.

Archana Kumari from Palamu said the protesters would continue their agitation until the government addressed their demands and fixed accountability for the alleged irregularities.

"The state government is still in a sleeping mode. We are getting support from across the country. People from various cities are sending food items to the protest site. We are thankful to those helping us continue our protest," said Shyam Bihari Gupta, a student from Balumath in Latehar district.

Meanwhile, thousands of students held a torchlight procession in the state capital this evening. South Asians & Diaspora

The students, who are holding an indefinite sit-in at the Jaipal Singh Munda stadium, marched to Albert Ekka Chowk. There, they raised slogans against the JMM-led alliance government and demanded an impartial probe into the alleged irregularities in the 14th JPSC, JSSC-CGL and other state-level public recruitment tests.

They said if the state government does not address their concerns, they will march to the Jharkhand Assembly and stage a gherao in the next couple of days.

"We have been holding protests, but no government officials approached us to listen to our concerns on these issues. This clearly shows the insensitivity of this JMM-led alliance government towards the thousands of students and youths of the state," they alleged.

Jan Suraj files complaint with EC against Patna police for illegally detaining party supporters

PATNA, AUG 02: Jan Suraj founder Prashant Kishor on Sunday said his party has filed a complaint with the Election Commission of India against Patna police for "illegally detaining" his party leaders and supporters during the Bankipur assembly byelection, allegedly at the behest of the BJP.

Kishor alleged that 54 people, including a significant number of locals, were detained by the police in two days leading up to the commencement of voting on Thursday.

"Patna SSP falsely claimed that the police detained outsiders during the 48-hour silence period ahead of the voting day to maintain law and order. We have filed a complaint with the ECI, and presented evidence that many of the detainees were locals. They also did not violate Section 144 of CrPC (now Section 163 of the BNSS),"

Kishor said while speaking at a press conference here.

Kishor was accompanied by at least three such local individuals who, or their family members, were detained by police at night from their homes. They, too, shared the stories of their detention at the press conference.

"More than 18 individuals of the 54 detained were local residents of Bankipur. They were not creating disturbance or violating Section 144. How can a person sleeping at home at night disturb law and order?" he asked.

Describing Patna SSP Kartikeya K Sharma as "incompetent, motivated and foolish", Kishor alleged that he (SSP) tried to influence votes by acting in a biased manner. History

"If the SSP wants to do politics, he should first resign from his post. Everyone has the freedom to do politics in a democracy, but not while sitting on an administrative

chair. The incompetent, motivated and foolish man is trying to influence politics, but we are not going to be scared of him," the Jan Suraj founder said.

He claimed that on his party's request, Bihar DGP and his subordinates assured that "there will be no role of Patna SSP in the counting areas on Monday".

Kishor contested the Bankipur byelection, where polling was held on July 30. The counting of votes will take place on August 3.

Kishor said while 54 of his party members and supporters were detained, no detention of people from the BJP was made.

"The fact is that BJP people were leading from the front, and whoever they pointed out to, the police were detaining them. This naked dance of police administration has shamed democracy. Never in Nitish Kumar's 20-year-rule was

such a situation created," he said.

The Jan Suraj leader said that apart from the ECI, the complaint was submitted to the general observer and police observer as well.

"In the next two days, I will complain against the SSP and police in Delhi's Election Commission. If that does not work, we will go to court. But in Bihar, such a thing will not be allowed to happen," he said.

Nawal Kishor Gupta, a resident of Mandiri area in Patna, claimed that he was picked up by police, which came in large numbers and did not specify his crime, at 2 am on Thursday while he was sleeping with his family.

He alleged that police seemingly tried to stop him from voting through detention but allowed him to vote at 5 pm. Nibha Bhushan, a Jan Suraj supporter, said she was helping elderly people to go to the booths.

KOLKATA, AUG 02: Exiled Bangladeshi author Taslima Nasreen on Sunday strongly pitched for the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code in India, asserting that such a law was essential to eliminate discrimination, particularly against women.

She also stressed the need for such a law in neighbouring Bangladesh and Pakistan. History

"All advanced countries have UCC-like laws. Bangladesh, Pakistan and India need a Uniform Civil Code. There should be equal laws for everyone. Women face a great deal of discrimination, and much of it can be removed through a UCC. It is essential," Nasreen told reporters at a press conference here.

Her remark comes after the West Bengal government had constituted a high-level committee to examine a draft Uniform Civil Code (UCC) for the state.

A government notification said the panel was formed in view of the "wide ramifications and voluminous nature" of the proposed legisla-



tion. The committee will undertake a comprehensive examination of the draft Bill before any further steps are taken, it said.

Referring to Bangladesh, the 63-year-old writer said equality was the cornerstone of civilisation, but many women continued to face discrimination.

"In Bangladesh, Hindu women do not have equal rights. They cannot inherit their father's property. If Hindu women are to enjoy freedom and equal rights, a Uniform Civil Code is necessary," she said.

Nasreen, who returned to Kolkata after nearly 19 years, was felicitated at a state government programme at Rabindra Sadan here on Saturday.

She had left Kolkata in 2007, when protests over the publication of her book 'Dwikhandito' (Split: A Life) forced the then Left Front government to move her out of the city. History

The writer expressed anguish over the disruption during her felicitation ceremony in the city a day ago, saying she felt "insulted" after noted poet Joy Goswami was

forced to leave the stage amid protests by a section of the audience.

"Not only was Joy insulted, but I was also insulted because I had invited him," Nasreen told reporters.

The controversy erupted when she invited Goswami onto the stage and requested him to address the gathering. However, loud objections from a section of the audience forced the celebrated poet to step down without speaking.

Recalling the incident, the writer said, "In my speech, I had spoken about freedom of expression. Everyone should be allowed to speak. It is not right to stop anyone from expressing their views."

Questioning the conduct of the protesters, she said, "Those who appreciated my speech were the ones who did not allow him to come on the stage. Didn't they also question me? It is contradictory. When someone speaks about freedom of expression, people support it, but when a poet is invited to speak, they do not want to hear him. That is not right."

CJP core members to meet at Dipke's residence on Aug 5 to chart future course

MUMBAI, AUG 02: Core members of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) will hold a meeting in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhaji-nagar on August 5 to discuss their future agenda, sources in the outfit said on Sunday.

The meeting will take place at CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke's residence, they said.

According to sources, activists and volunteers of the CJP were told to spend some time with their families after their month-long agitation against the NEET paper leak at Jantar Mantar in Delhi last month.

The CJP's core members were also told to talk to volunteers and students and come to the meeting with their thoughts and suggestions, they said.



The outfit will hold a press conference after their meeting on August 5 and announce decisions regarding the future course of action, sources said.

Meanwhile, Dipke met

students, locals and visitors from the neighbouring district at his residence, and celebrated 'Friendship Day' with the children.

The protests spearheaded by the CJP over the NEET

paper leak scandal at Jantar Mantar in Delhi received an enthusiastic response from 'Gen Z' across the country, leading to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation last week.