

CJP to launch 'kya bolti public' campaign next month, says Dipke

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR, AUG 6: The Cockroach Janta Party will launch a 'kya bolti public' campaign next month to interact with people all over India and to get to know their issues, CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke said on Thursday. He was addressing a press conference after the conclusion of the CJP's core team meeting in his hometown Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar in Maharashtra. The core team had been holding talks at Dipke's resi-



dence since Wednesday. "During the 'kya bolti public' campaign, we will get to know what people think of the present situation in the country and what the issues they face are," he said. Describing Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation as the biggest achievement of the students' agitation, Dipke said, "The fear which this government created in the last 10-12 years in the minds of people has now ended."

Gen Z Protesting "Not Anti-National", Their Grievance Is Genuine: RSS Chief

MUMBAI, AUG 6: In the wake of youth-led agitations over NEET paper leak, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said that the grievances of the student protesters are genuine and pushed back against any efforts to brand young protesters as 'anti-national', stating that the country's youth deserve dialogue, as they are the next generation.

Addressing an event in Mumbai, Mohan Bhagwat said, "I'm saying, if Gen Z is protesting, they're not anti-national. They're our own people. They're our next generation. With this sense of belonging, along with dialogue, I said a sense of belonging is needed. A relationship is needed. That is our relationship. Its recognition is needed."

Bhagwat validated the grievances relayed by the protesters. "Whatever has happened, the grievance is genuine. There is a lot that needs to be done in Indian education; since it's not happening, it's being talked about."

He framed the protest itself as a legitimate democratic tool when other channels fail.



"Protest is also a form of dialogue. We are sitting here and talking; if things are understood this way, it's fine. Otherwise, there will be a debate between us. If you are in some difficulty, or I am in some difficulty, and it is in your hands or my hands to resolve it, and it's not happening, then I will shout," he said.

Bhagwat contrasted today's youth with his own generation, saying the shift toward questioning authority is a different way of engaging with the world.

"When we were at the age of Gen Z, the nature of our generation was such that we would accept what the elders said. We wouldn't question. Now Gen Z and Gen Alpha ask questions; they want logical answers," he said.

Pressed further on the

point, Bhagwat said, "I feel this new generation, Gen Z, Gen Alpha, they are more honest than our existing generation," he said, adding that "an honest appeal for patriotism and service works in them."

Asked whether earlier dialogue could have prevented the situation from escalating, Bhagwat said, "When something that shouldn't happen does happen, then there must be a mistake somewhere; that's why it happens. Whose it is, what it is, that's a different matter. But there has been a deficiency. It will be fixed, it should be done, that's what I believe," he said.

"In democracy, this is the method. They call it 'debate' in English; we call it 'shas-trarth' - there is no debate there, but there are two sides there: 'poorv' and 'uttar'. We

look at all aspects, and everyone has their own perspective, so a new dimension comes to light in every subject. So, we get so many opinions and counter-opinions; they together form the total view of the truth. This should indeed happen. I won't say that Gen Z should not protest, but there are methods to how and what is to be done in a democracy. Those who drafted the Constitution, and the speeches of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, have indications on the same. This should be looked at," Bhagwat added.

RSS chief said Gen Z is raising its voice because they have some issues. "And that should be rectified. Agitation should not be against me or you, but for system correction."

Questioned about incidents of lathi charges and pellet gun use against young protesters during the demonstrations, Bhagwat declined to offer a definitive judgment, citing a lack of complete information.

"We'll have to go into the reasons why and what happened, for which the information needed, I don't have," he said. (Agencies)

Bombay HC convicts Tarun Tejpal in 2013 sexual assault case; overturns acquittal

PANAJI, AUG 6: In a major setback to former Tehelka editor Tarun Tejpal, the Bombay High Court on Thursday convicted him for raping a colleague in 2013, setting aside his acquittal by a Goa sessions court five years ago.

While Tejpal pleaded for leniency, claiming he was a "political victim" and the father of two daughters, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Goa government, demanded the maximum punishment to send a strong message that "no means no".

Justices Neela Gokhale and Amit Jamsandekar of the HC's Goa bench said they would pronounce their order on sentencing in the afternoon.

"We set aside the trial court order of acquittal. The respondent (Tejpal) stands convicted," the bench said.

Tejpal later said he will move the Supreme Court against the HC's order.

He has been convicted under sections 376 (2)(f) (person who is a guardian or in a position of trust or authority rapes a woman), 354 (a) (sexual harassment) and 354 (b) (using criminal force on a woman with an intent to disrobe her) of the Indian Penal Code.

Under section 376, Tejpal faces a minimum punishment of 10 years and a maximum of life imprisonment.

Tejpal, who was present in court, sought leniency, claiming that he was a "political victim" and the father of two daughters. "I am 62 years old today. I am a father of two daughters. I have a wife. I am a political victim. My lawyers have also asked me to urge the court to show leniency," he told the court.

Tejpal's lawyer Aabad Ponda, while seeking the minimum punishment, also urged the court to suspend the sentence and conviction for at least 10 weeks so that they could file an appeal in

the Supreme Court.

Tejpal later told reporters that he will move the apex court against the HC order.

"We will be appealing against this order. We feel the order is wrong. We will be moving to the Supreme Court against the order," he said.

The case relates to allegations by a former junior colleague that the veteran journalist sexually assaulted her inside a hotel elevator during the ThinkFest event in Goa in November 2013.

After he was acquitted by the trial court in 2021, the Goa government challenged the verdict in HC.

Tejpal's lawyer Ponda said, "He has been on bail since trial and has not ever violated any of the conditions imposed on him. He is a senior citizen." Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, however, said Tejpal deserved the maximum punishment of life sentence considering his "brazen" attitude towards

the victim and also for later portraying her as behaving normally after the alleged incident.

"The convict (Tejpal) was in a position of dominance over the victim. The victim was not just a colleague but also a friend of his daughter. The convict has shown no remorse," Mehta said.

He repeated the offence the next day and then during the trial and now before the HC questioned the victim's behaviour by saying that she behaved normally, he said.

"The punishment should commensurate the act. It is high time to send a clear message that no means no. That deterrent message needs to be sent out," Mehta said.

tate's appeal, Mehta had argued that the sessions court committed a serious error by assessing the complainant's conduct based on preconceived notions of how a victim of sexual assault should behave.

and two years under the Juvenile Justice Act for forcing a minor to consume alcohol. The sentences will run consecutively, taking the total jail term to 12 years.

She was also fined Rs 15,000, with an additional six months' imprisonment in default of payment.

Proceedings against the co-accused were abated after his death on February 3 this year before the trial concluded. (Agencies)

Govt Cannot Stop Me From Raising Students' Voice: Rahul After Prayagraj Venue Provider Revokes Permission

NEW DELHI, AUG 6: With the venue provider in Prayagraj revoking permission for his 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' event, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said no matter how hard the BJP government tries, it cannot stop him from raising the voice of students.

The Leader of Opposition's remarks came after the Kayastha Pathshala Trust revoked permission for his 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' programme, scheduled to be held at KP Ground in Prayagraj on August 8, citing an Allahabad High Court order.

The trust also cited waterlogging at the venue for the cancellation.

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said the students of Allahabad University are fighting for their future against fee hikes and seat cuts.

"But instead of listening to the students, the administration is filing FIRs against them," he alleged.

The policy of the Modi government is to suppress the voice of the youth, Gandhi claimed.

"Ask a question and you get a lathi charge, protest and



you face cases, and raise your voice and you get pellet guns," Gandhi said.

"Ever since I decided to come to Prayagraj to hear the students' issues, the administration has been trying every possible way to stop my programme," Gandhi said.

It's clear that they are even afraid of 'Chhatron ki Goonj', he said.

"I stand with the students. No matter how hard the government tries, it cannot stop me from raising their voice," Gandhi asserted.

Gandhi's remarks came after the Kayastha Pathshala Trust's acting president, Jitendra Nath Chaudhary, told PTI that the Allahabad High Court, in an order dated August 14, 2025, had directed that the KP College ground should not be used for purposes other than sports and educational activities.

He said the ground was also waterlogged after rain and was unsafe for a public event. Chaudhary said the permission granted to the Congress was conditional upon approval from the dis-

trict magistrate.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha was scheduled to interact with students on alleged paper leaks and other matters affecting students at the gathering.

On Wednesday, Uttar Pradesh Congress president Ajay Rai visited Prayagraj to review preparations for the event. Rai asserted that Gandhi will come to Prayagraj on August 8 and interact with students despite the KP Trust revoking permission for the venue. (AGENCIES)

Gujarat govt bans analogue paneer, cheese and butter citing public health concerns

AHMEDABAD, AUG 5: The Gujarat government on Wednesday imposed a state-wide ban on the production, transportation and sale of "unstandardised" analogue paneer, cheese and butter, citing public health concerns and the need to protect consumers as well as state's dairy sector.

The decision was announced by the Health and Family Welfare Department, which said the ban has been imposed under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, after food safety authorities detected substandard analogue or artificial dairy products during inspections and laboratory testing across the state.

It also warned of taking legal action against any individual or food business operator found violating the prohibition. The decision came the same day the neighbouring

BJP government in Maharashtra announced a ban on analogue paneer.

Analogue paneer is a non-dairy substitute made using vegetable oils, starches, emulsifiers and other additives instead of milk fat. It is cheaper to produce than conventional paneer and generally contains lower protein levels.

Gujarat Health Minister Praful Pansheriya said the state Food and Drugs Control Administration (FDCA) had been conducting raids against analogue paneer and other such food products for the last four months.

He was found that analogue paneer is not even fit for consumption and is not a nutritious food. Therefore, from today, Gujarat is imposing a complete ban on its sale, production and transportation," Pansheriya told reporters.

He said strict action would be taken under the Food

Safety and Standards Act, 2006, against anyone found violating the ban.

According to the government, Gujarat, being India's leading dairy state, has lakhs of milk producers whose efforts ensure the supply of genuine milk and milk products to consumers.

The department said consumers generally expect paneer and similar products sold in the market to be made from pure milk.

However, products resembling paneer but prepared using vegetable oil and other non-dairy ingredients instead of milk had been found in the market, misleading consumers and adversely affecting genuine dairy producers.

It said the state FDCA detected such products during sampling drives and laboratory analysis conducted across Gujarat.

"Taking serious note of the situation, and in the interest

of public health and consumers, the government has decided to prohibit the production, storage, transportation, distribution and sale of unstandardised analogue paneer, cheese and butter throughout the state," the department said.

The government maintained that the move was preventive in nature and aimed at stopping practices that mislead consumers by selling non-dairy products as paneer or other dairy products.

It warned that any individual or food business operator violating the prohibition would face legal action under the Act.

The department appealed to manufacturers, traders, hotels, restaurants, caterers and other food business operators to sell and use only genuine paneer and comply with the provisions of the law. (PTI)

Assam flood situation grim; 1.6 lakh people affected, toll reaches 95

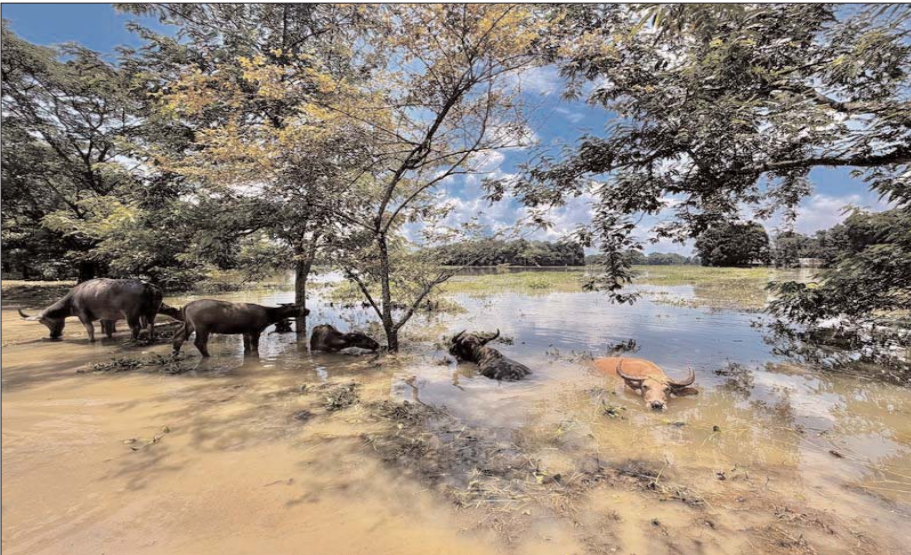
GUWAHATI, AUG 6: Fourteen districts and 1.6 lakh people were affected by floods in Assam while the death toll rose to 95 with six more deaths, officials said on Thursday.

Six fatalities were reported on Wednesday -- two each from Sivasagar and Biswanath districts, and one each from Golaghat and Morigaon. The worst-hit Sivasagar alone has accounted for 50 deaths so far, while 21 people have lost their lives in another badly ravaged neighbouring district of Charaideo.

The toll in Jorhat was nine, followed by five in Golaghat, three in Dhemaji, two each in Karbi Anglong and Biswanath, and one each in Sonitpur, Kamrup Metropolitan and Morigaon.

More than 1,60,600 people remained affected in Biswanath, Charaideo, Darrang, Dhemaji, Golaghat, Jorhat, Kamrup Metropolitan, Karbi Anglong, Lakhimpur, Nagaon, Sivasagar, Sonitpur, Tinsukia and Udalguri districts.

Among these, Sivasagar accounted for 57,000 people affected, followed by Golaghat (34,000) and Jorhat



(25,000). On Tuesday, the number of affected people was 1.22 lakh in five districts.

More than 100 relief camps and relief distribution centres were operational in six districts, catering to 44,523 affected people at present. Crop area of 16,951.76 hectares remained submerged.

Embankments, roads, bridges and other infrastructure have also been damaged by floodwaters in different districts of the state.

Union minister J P Nadda reviewed the situation in the worst-hit districts on

Wednesday and said the scale of devastation was so enormous that it will take time to restore normalcy.

Deputed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Union health and family welfare minister toured Sivasagar district's Nepalikhati area along the Assam-Nagaland border, one of the worst-hit regions in the latest wave of floods that struck on July 19.

In the evening, Nadda participated in a high-level review meeting with Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and senior state gov-

ernment officials on the prevailing flood situation and the subsequent relief, rehabilitation and healthcare measures.

"I have visited the flood-hit Nepalikhati area. Along with CM Sarma, I have witnessed the scale of devastation. The damage is so huge that it will take time (for normalcy to return)," Nadda told reporters after interacting with the flood victim families.

Assuring the affected people of all possible assistance from the Centre, he said the government stood firmly with them. (AGENCIES)