

PRADHAN QUILTS



NEW DELHI, JULY 25

UNION EDUCATION MINISTER DHARMENDRA PRADHAN TENDERED HIS RESIGNATION TO PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI ON SATURDAY FOLLOWING A MONTH OF INTENSE STUDENT-LED DEMONSTRATIONS. THE DECISION COMES AS THE GOVERNMENT YIELDED TO THE CENTRAL DEMAND OF THE YOUTH-LED POLITICAL MOVEMENT, THE COCKROACH JANTA PARTY (CJP), OVER ALLEGED NEET EXAMINATION IRREGULARITIES AND PAPER LEAKS.

PRADHAN ANNOUNCED HIS RESIGNATION ON X HOURS BEFORE A CRUCIAL THIRD ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN CJP LEADERSHIP AND THE CENTRE. IN HIS STATEMENT, HE NOTED THAT HE SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION TO PROTECT THE COUNTRY'S YOUTH FROM GETTING "ENTANGLED IN LEGAL COMPLICATIONS" AND TO PREVENT "ANTI-NATIONAL FORCES" FROM EXPLOITING THE ONGOING STIR AT JANTAR MANTAR.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS
PRIMARY DEMAND MET: THE CENTRE MET THE AGITATORS' NON-NEGOTIABLE CONDITION FOR TALKS BY ACCEPTING PRADHAN'S EXIT.

PRIOR CONCESSIONS: THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY AGREED ON FRIDAY TO WITHHOLD LEGAL ACTION AGAINST STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS AND OFFER COMPENSATION TO FAMILIES OF STUDENTS AFFECTED BY NEET-RELATED TRAGEDIES.

PROTEST HUB CELEBRATES: JUBILANT CROWDS ERUPTED AT DELHI'S JANTAR MANTAR FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT, WITH CJP FOUNDER ABHIJEET DIPKE DECLARING THE OUTCOME A HISTORIC TRIUMPH FOR STUDENT POWER.

THE RESIGNATION MARKS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL CONCESSIONS TO A YOUTH-DRIVEN AGITATION IN RECENT YEARS, DRAWING MAJOR BACKING FROM OPPOSITION PARTIES NATIONWIDE.

INDIA'S 'COCKROACH' GEN Z HAS HAD ENOUGH

Young India Erupts in Protest as Unemployment, Exam Scams and Broken Promises Fuel a Nationwide Revolt

Hyderabad, July 25

For more than a decade, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's political narrative has rested on two pillars—religious mobilization and the promise of economic prosperity under the banner of *Acche Din* (good days). For years, the formula delivered electoral success and widespread public support. Today, however, India's youngest generation is questioning whether those promises have translated into opportunities and economic security.

India's Generation Z—more than 370 million strong and the largest youth population in the world—is emerging as a formidable political and social force. Their frustration has spilled onto the streets in what many observers describe as one of the biggest youth-led protests witnessed during Modi's tenure as Prime Minister.

The protests gained momentum after allegations of large-scale irregularities and paper leaks in national entrance examinations, including medical college admissions tests. More than two million students were affected by the controversy, forcing many to retake examinations after spending years preparing for them. The emotional and financial burden has been devastating, with reports indicating that several students lost their lives amid the crisis.

Public anger intensified after repeated instances of examination leaks across various states raised serious questions about transparency and accountability within India's education system. Students and youth organizations demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, arguing that repeated failures have shattered the aspirations of millions of young Indians competing for limited opportunities.

Adding fuel to the outrage was a controversial remark that described unemployed youth as "cockroaches" during judicial proceedings—a comment that sparked widespread criticism and quickly became a rallying



lying cry for young protesters. Social media users transformed the term into a symbol of resistance, leading to the creation of the "Cockroach Janta Party," a satirical political movement that has attracted millions of followers online and captured the imagination of digitally connected young Indians.

The protests, however, are about much more than examination scandals. They reflect a deeper economic anxiety confronting India's youth.

Despite being one of the world's fastest-growing major economies, unemployment among young Indians remains a significant

challenge. A large percentage of unemployed individuals in the country are below the age of 30. Graduate unemployment rates are substantially higher than those among less-educated workers, raising concerns about the mismatch between educational attainment and employment opportunities.

Many highly educated young Indians are increasingly accepting jobs far below their qualifications. Engineering graduates are working in supervisory roles at construction sites, postgraduates are employed in data-entry positions, and millions are turning to the gig economy for survival. While

gig work has created employment opportunities, critics argue that it often lacks adequate job security, social protection, and sustainable income.

Government initiatives aimed at skill development and employment generation have delivered mixed results. Although millions have received vocational training over the past decade, employment outcomes have remained modest. Simultaneously, India's technology sector—which once symbolized the aspirations of the middle class—has witnessed hiring slowdowns and workforce restructuring amid global economic uncertainties.

Prime Minister Modi had previously promised transformative economic reforms that included the creation of millions of jobs annually, improved infrastructure, reduced corruption, and the emergence of a "neo-middle class." While substantial progress has been made in infrastructure development and digital governance, critics argue that employment generation has failed to keep pace with the expectations of India's expanding youth population.

Generation Z, born into the age of smartphones and social media, is uniquely positioned to organize and amplify its concerns. Protest movements are increasingly driven by viral videos, memes, and online campaigns that challenge political narratives with unprecedented speed and reach. Demonstrators have used the Prime Minister's own speeches during protests to highlight the gap between promises and present realities.

The government's response has so far been measured, with limited concessions offered to protesting students. Yet, the growing dissatisfaction among young Indians signals a broader political and economic challenge that cannot easily be ignored.

India's youth are not merely demanding jobs or examination reforms—they are demanding accountability, dignity, and a future that matches the ambitions they were encouraged to dream of. Their message is clear: economic growth must translate into meaningful opportunities for those who will shape India's future.

The voices echoing across India's streets today represent more than a protest movement. They reflect the aspirations and anxieties of a generation unwilling to remain silent.

As India's "Cockroach Generation" rises in defiance, one thing is becoming increasingly evident—the country's youth are no longer waiting for *Acche Din*. They are demanding them.