

# Hundreds gather at CJP protest seeking Pradhan's resignation



**Screen to street:** CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke and Ladakh activist Sonam Wangchuk with supporters of the outfit during the protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Saturday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

**Aroon Deep**  
NEW DELHI

The first in-person protest of the online movement Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, attracted a crowd of over 1,500 people at Jantar Mantar here on Saturday.

Ladakh activist Sonam Wangchuk joined the demonstration led by CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke, where protesters raised slogans against the Union government and sought accountability, amid the cancellation of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) and the issues with the Central Board of Secondary Education

(CBSE) Class 12 board examinations.

Hundreds gathered in the first hour of the protest and many were seen wearing cockroach masks, which were being distributed at the venue. The crowd comprised a large number of youngsters.

## Six detained

While no untoward incidents were reported, some counter-protesters raised slogans near the protest site and the Delhi Police detained six people to prevent a possible confrontation. The detentions were made as a precautionary measure to maintain law and order after receiving inputs about the possibility of tensions between supporters and opposers of the movement, the police

said. Earlier, Mr. Dipke, who landed in New Delhi after a day-long journey from Boston in the U.S., told presspersons gathered at the airport that "the Education Minister has to resign". "Five students have committed suicide," he added. At the Jantar Mantar, he led chants seeking Mr. Pradhan's resignation.

"We are not here to protest but to appeal that government should be accountable," Mr. Wangchuk, who spent nearly six months incarcerated under the National Security Act till March, said after joining the protest.

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# Hundreds gather at CJP's maiden protest

Heavy security arrangements were made at the spot, with police and paramilitary personnel deployed in large numbers. Police photographers, too, were spread out across the site and at least one drone captured visuals of the crowd.

Earlier, Mr. Dipke had announced that he would no longer need to personally seek police permissions for the demonstration, as representatives had already received police approval.

The CJP movement, built on AI visuals and a viral campaign by Mr. Dipke on Instagram and X, has garnered over 2 crore followers, mere days after being launched. The movement's spokespersons have insisted that they have no links to established political parties, even as parallels emerged between the CJP and the India Against Corruption movement online, with many right-wing influencers alleging political links and nefarious objectives on X.

The protest comes amid an intense heatwave in the capital, as temperatures reached 39 degrees Celsius at noon. Mobile phone signals appeared to be obstructed, with many protesters unable to go online.

Protesters emptied out the venue within an hour of the allowed time limit of 5 p.m., and Mr. Dipke insisted in a statement on X that the day's demonstrations were merely a "trailer", and that they would return next Saturday. For now, he said, he would go meet his parents, whom he had not seen in over a year.

*(With inputs from Vijaita Singh)*

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# Kukis take out 'coffin rally', CRPF chief reviews security

Mourners demand justice for victims of the attack at Loibol Khullen village in Kangpokpi district of Manipur on June 5; while Kukis blame the attack on the NSCN, the latter has denied the accusation

**The Hindu Bureau**  
GUWAHATI

**K**uki-Zo organisations in Manipur organised a 'coffin rally' on Saturday, ahead of the burial of three community members, including a woman, killed in an early morning attack on Friday.

The mourners demanded justice for the victims and action against those responsible for the attack at Loibol Khullen village in Kangpokpi district. The rally was carried out from Kangpokpi town to Martyrs' Cemetery at Phaijang, about 15 km away.

The Kuki Inpi Manipur, the apex body of the Kukis in Manipur, has blamed the attack on the National Socialist Council of Nagalim, also known as the NSCN (Isak-Muivah), and its "proxy" Zeliangrong United Front (Kamson). The NSCN (I-M) has dismissed the accusation.

The Kuki-Zo Council said that Friday's killings



CRPF Director-General Gyanendra Pratap Singh with Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla. FILE PHOTO

## **The CRPF chief met the Governor and the Chief Minister and discussed operational preparedness**

reaffirmed the legitimacy of the demand for a separate administration for the Kuki-Zo communities, whose conflict with the Nagas followed that with the non-tribal Meiteis.

The latest round of violence in Manipur occurred

during the visit of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Director-General Gyanendra Pratap Singh to the State. He reviewed the security situation in the violence-hit State.

Mr. Gyanendra Pratap Singh also met Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla and Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh. According to the CRPF, the Director-General's discussions focused on enhancing operational preparedness, strategic planning,

and the force's comprehensive road map to eliminate insurgency and restore lasting peace in Manipur.

The Chief Minister appreciated the invaluable contribution of the CRPF in maintaining peace and law and order in the north-eastern State.

"The Government of Manipur remains committed to strengthening security, upholding public trust, and fostering harmony among all communities," Mr. Yumnam Khemchand Singh said.

On Saturday, the CRPF chief met the force's COBRA personnel deployed in Manipur and commended their stellar role in various operational theatres. He emphasised caring for the sentiments of the local population wherever they operated.

"He motivated the personnel to work with zeal and vigour to wipe out insurgency from Manipur," the CRPF said in a statement.

# India, Nepal can shift trajectory of bilateral ties to achieve full potential

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**

NEW DELHI

India and Nepal have an opportunity to “decisively shift” the track of their bilateral ties to achieve its full potential, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Saturday, after official talks with his visiting Nepal counterpart Shisir Khanal.

Citing this week’s visit by Rabi Lamichhane, the chairperson of Nepal’s ruling Rastriya Swatantra Party, Mr. Jaishankar said there are “strong complementarities” between the government of Prime Minister Balendra Shah in Kathmandu and the government of India.

Saying that Mr. Shah



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with his Nepal counterpart Shisir Khanal in New Delhi on Saturday. ANI

wants to pursue “result-driven diplomacy”, Mr. Khanal described India as Nepal’s “most important partner”.

The conversation between the two Foreign Ministers came on the second day of Mr. Khanal’s visit, the first such visit by any

member of the RSP government that came to power in March 2026.

“We believe that today we have an opportunity to decisively shift the trajectory of India-Nepal relations and to realise the full potential of our ties,” Mr. Jaishankar said.

# Verify nationality of 2,860 people for their deportation: India to Bangladesh

Shubhajit Roy  
New Delhi, June 6

AS THE bordering states of West Bengal and Assam intensify their crackdown on illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, the Indian government has requested the neighbouring country to verify the nationality of 2,860 people so that they can be sent back.

This assumes significance at a time when hundreds of Bangladeshi immigrants, who are reported to have entered India illegally, have flocked to the borders in the recent weeks, as reported by *The Indian Express*. This movement of people has been fuelled by the announcement of the newly elected BJP government in West Bengal, led by Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, that it will follow the "detect, delete and deport" policy; the government has so far detained about 400 undocu-

mented Bangladeshi immigrants in its detention centres.

This is also an outcome of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in the state, which has led to a panic among the immigrants in the border state.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "We have requested Bangladesh to verify the nationality of over 2,860 people whom we think are Bangladeshi nationals, and they are staying here in India. We are yet to get a response on this matter." Addressing the weekly media briefing Friday, Jaiswal said: "All foreign nationals in India, if they are here illegally, including from Bangladesh... we have laws to deal with them, and they'll be dealt with accordingly."

"As far as deportation of these people is concerned, there is a bilateral mechanism in place... We refer these cases to the Bangladeshi side for them to verify the

**E.** EXPLAINED

## The Diplomatic Challenge

The diplomatic challenge for India is to navigate the issue of deporting illegal Bangladeshi nationals as the BJP has won the two bordering states of West Bengal and Assam on the poll plank of deporting illegal immigration from the neighbouring country. The Bangladesh border guards have not been taking the immigrants back since they too need to verify their nationality. Dhaka, meanwhile, has expressed concern over "push in attempts", insisting that any return should be through formal, legal and diplomatic channels.

nationality of these people, and once it is verified, we take forward the deportation process."

"We have several or many of these requests, which are still pending with the Bangladeshi side, and we hope and expect that they'll be expedited as soon as possible so that the deportation of people who are illegally staying in India can be taken forward in a smooth and efficient manner," Jaiswal said.

Officials said they have been raising this issue with the Bangladeshi side for the past several years. In early May, Delhi had raised the issue of illegal immigrants with Dhaka and expressed hope that it will expedite nationality verification for smooth repatriation. The development came days after the BJP swept the West Bengal Assembly elections.

A day after the poll results, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman was quoted in

the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party's official Facebook page as saying that Dhaka will take action if "push-in" incidents occur amid the change of power in the bordering state.

Officials said the issue of illegal migration from Bangladesh to India is being discussed at several bilateral meetings between the two countries, including at the home secretary level.

India and Bangladesh have put in place mechanisms, including a Coordinated Border Management Plan, to address problems arising from illegal border crossing, reduce the scope for incidents on the border and enhance cooperation between the borderguarding forces of the two countries. The two sides are also cooperating in undertaking fencing of the vulnerable patches with a view to prevent criminal activities and illegal movements along the border, officials said.

Domestic LPG price hiked by ₹29 a 14.2-kg cylinder

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW DELHI

Domestic cooking gas price has been raised by ₹29 per LPG cylinder, marking the second increase in three months as state-owned fuel retailers continue to grapple with elevated global energy costs.

The price of a 14.2-kg LPG cylinder in Delhi will rise to ₹942 from ₹913 with effect from June 7, according to industry sources.

The increase follows a ₹60 hike per cylinder on March 7 after the conflict in West Asia disrupted global energy supplies and drove up international fuel prices. Industry sources said that the increase had only partly offset losses incurred on domestic LPG sales.

Oil marketing companies were estimated to be losing about ₹703 on every LPG cylinder sold before the latest revision, the sources said.

The LPG price hike comes amid a broader increase in the price of petrol, diesel and compressed natural gas.

# Indian mission in U.K. slams disruption at CJI's lecture

The statement followed videos showing a heated exchange over a question from the audience about 'growing hostility to dissent within India', which was cut short by the event moderator

**Press Trust of India**  
LONDON

**T**he High Commission of India in London on Friday issued a statement condemning the disruption caused at an event addressed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant during his ongoing visit to the U.K.

Chief Justice Kant was addressing a lecture on "Artificial intelligence and international law" at Birkbeck, University of London, on Thursday, which was followed by an audience interaction.

The event explored the growing relationship between artificial intelligence, legal systems and international governance, examining both the opportunities and challenges AI presents for the future of justice and global regulation.

"A lively discussion followed his address. Thereafter, a certain individual tried to disrupt the event," reads the Indian High Commission statement, re-



Chief Justice of India Surya Kant delivers a lecture at the Birkbeck College, University of London, in London. PTI

leased on social media.

"Such indecorous audience behaviour is unacceptable and inconsistent with respectful engagement that should govern public discourse. Differences of opinion are a natural part of a democratic society. However, they must be expressed in a manner that is civil and respectful," it adds.

The statement followed videos circulating online

that reflect a heated exchange over an attempted audience question about "growing hostility to dissent within India", which was cut short by the event moderator as being off the topic of "Artificial intelligence and international law".

## Role of law

"Technology itself is neither inherently benevolent nor inherently harmful. Its

impact depends upon the legal, political, and ethical frameworks within which societies choose to deploy it," Chief Justice Kant said during his address.

"The responsibility of law, therefore, is neither to resist technological progress nor to surrender unquestioningly before it. Its responsibility is to ensure that technological power remains accountable to constitutional values, democratic legitimacy, and human dignity," he said.

Chief Justice Kant is expected to touch upon the role of technology in the legal arena at further events during his six-day tour of the U.K.

On Friday, he delivered the inaugural address at the Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA)'s international conference on the topic of "Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) as a Catalyst for Strengthening India-U.K. Economic Partnership". "What is needed now is not comparison, but co-creation," he said.

# U.S. and Iran exchange strikes in the Gulf in latest escalation

Bahrain and Kuwait come under fire as Iran's Revolutionary Guards say they targeted 'enemy bases in the area' in response to a U.S. operation targeting the country's Goruk and Qeshm islands

**Reuters**

DUBAI/WASHINGTON

Iran launched a salvo of missiles at Bahrain and Kuwait on Saturday. This barrage occurred hours after the U.S. military said it struck Iranian coastal radar sites on Saturday after shooting down drones launched by Iran toward the Strait of Hormuz, in the latest escalation complicating efforts to end the war.

The U.S. military believed the four Iranian drones were targeting regional maritime traffic, a U.S. official said. U.S. Central Command said on X that the U.S. then struck Iran's surveillance sites in Goruk and Qeshm Island, both on the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said the U.S. action broke an April 8 ceasefire, adding that such repeated violations showed Washington had no intention of reducing tensions. It warned that the United States would bear responsibility for the consequences of its "illegal actions".



People ride past a billboard depicting Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran on Saturday. REUTERS

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they had attacked 'enemy U.S. bases' in Kuwait and Bahrain in retaliation for U.S. strikes and fired at four tankers trying to cross the strait without its permission.

The Guards said the group targeted the Ali Al Salem air base, which hosts U.S. forces in Kuwait, and the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet in Bahrain, according to the state-run IRNA news agency. The U.S. military said there were no reports of harm to U.S. personnel.

Kuwait's Army said on Saturday it engaged seven ballistic missiles that

passed over residential areas, resulting in material damage but no casualties. Earlier in the week, Iranian drones heavily damaged a passenger terminal at Kuwait's main airport, killing one person and wounding dozens.

In Bahrain, sirens sounded and residents were urged to seek shelter.

Kuwait and Bahrain condemned the strikes.

Iran later said it had hit U.S. bases in both countries with ballistic missiles, but the U.S. military said six missiles were intercepted and a seventh did not reach its target.

The U.S. and Iran have been engaged in largely indirect negotiations for an interim deal to halt the three-month-old war that would leave issues including Iran's nuclear programme to further negotiations. But a deal has remained elusive as the two sides have periodically skirmished.

Tehran wants access to billions of dollars in oil revenue, waivers on sanctions on crude exports, the lifting of a U.S. blockade on its ports and leverage over the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran has effectively blocked the waterway, where about a fifth of global oil traffic transited before the war.

## Pakistan Minister visit

Iranian state media reported that Mohsin Naqvi, the Interior Minister of Pakistan, which has been mediating an end to the conflict, arrived in Tehran on Saturday for talks with Iranian officials including Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi.

(With inputs from The Associated Press)

# Taiwan accuses China of escalating pressure with sea operations

Reuters  
TAIPEI

Taiwan said on Saturday that a Chinese coast guard ship and a survey ship had carried out the first coordinated operation to “provoke” Taiwan, in waters around strategically located islands in the South China Sea.

The Taiwan-controlled Pratas Islands have emerged as a new pressure point in China’s ongoing military and quasi-military operations around Taiwan in an effort to assert Beijing’s sovereignty claims.

Taiwan’s coast guard said in a statement that along with a Chinese coast guard ship that had approached the Pratas on Friday, a Chinese oceanographic survey vessel approached the islands on Saturday. “This is the first observed instance of Chinese coast guard and survey vessels acting in coordination to provoke Taiwan,” it said.

“These acts are highly provocative. The PRC [People’s Republic of China] is a sick bully, causing trouble across the region,” Taiwan National Security Council Secretary-General Joseph Wu wrote on his X account.

The Chinese coast guard vessel broadcast that it was conducting law enforcement operations and that “Taiwan’s future lies in national reunification”, said Taiwan’s coast guard, which dispatched its own vessels in response.

Residents of St. Petersburg were told not to leave their homes after a large-scale Ukrainian drone attack targeted Russia’s second-largest city on the final day of the country’s flagship economic forum in Saint Petersburg, officials said on Saturday.

# Ukraine targets St. Petersburg again after Putin rejects meet

Associated Press  
SAINT PETERSBURG

The attack came a day after Russian President Vladimir Putin refused an offer to meet his Ukrainian counterpart.

St. Petersburg Governor Alexander Beglov said three people sustained minor injuries in the attack. Russia’s Defence Ministry said its air defences shot down 376 Ukrainian drones.

“Last night, our drones covered a distance of about



Vladimir Putin

1,000 kilometres to the St. Petersburg region – to the enemy navy’s arsenals and a base in Kronstadt,” Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote on X, adding that drones also hit an oil depot in Russia’s southern Krasnodar region.

Speaking at the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) – an

event dubbed “Russia’s Davos” – Mr. Putin on Friday rejected a proposal by Mr. Zelenskyy for a face-to-face meeting on the 4-year-old conflict, saying he sees “no point” in it.

Responding to Mr. Putin’s dismissal of the proposed meeting, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said on Saturday that things would “only get worse for Russia.”

“Failures will get more humiliating,” he wrote on X, warning that there are “no safe places in Russia that can be exempt” from Ukrainian long-range attacks.

In Ukraine, one person was killed and three wounded overnight into Saturday in the Dnipropetrovsk region, as Russian forces struck three districts, authorities said.