

{ AFTER 36-DAY CJP SIT-IN }

Jantar Mantar scrubbed, echoes of triumph linger

Pragynesh
New Delhi, July 26

THE GRAFFITI on the walls were the first to go. On Sunday afternoon, workers from the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) applied a coat of white paint over the red and blue police booths at Jantar Mantar. A spray-painted ‘*Ye desh hamara hai*’, (the country is ours) vanished. A cockroach holding a pen, sketched hastily on another booth, also disappeared under the fresh coat of paint.

A little further down, along the red boundary wall leading towards Kerala House, messages left behind by supporters met the same fate. One that read ‘thanks for the protest thing, do it again’ was swallowed by uneven splotches of white.

The clean-up has begun. Road dividers, damaged under the weight of thousands who climbed over them during the past week, were being repaired. Traffic signboards streaked with black spray paint were scrubbed clean, while water tankers washed away the dust and footprints.

Trucks from the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) were loaded with posters, left-over food and other belongings. Near the barricades, municipal workers gathered the last remnants into piles — shawls, thin mattresses stitched together from old clothes, steel tumblers, broken chairs, and the blue-and-yellow tarpaulin sheets that sheltered protesters from the sun and rain for over a month.

Just hours earlier, these streets looked very different. Thousands danced to Bollywood number *Chak De India*, hugged one another and celebrated as the 36-day-long agitation led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) achieved a win with Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan’s resignation.

On Sunday, even as the crowds were gone, the security apparatus remained. Body scanners stood at the entrance. Police barricades remained at



NDMC workers whitewash graffiti in New Delhi, Sunday. PRAVEEN KHANNA

60 tonnes of waste cleared, more than 100 NDMC staffers at site

Mishal Mussaddique
New Delhi, July 26

HOURS AFTER the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) called off its month-long protest on Saturday night, following the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) launched an extensive clean-up drive, working through the night to restore the protest site.

Dr Ankita Rai, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) at the NDMC, said 70 sanitation workers were deployed from 10 pm on Saturday to 5 am on Sunday, and 35 more workers were deployed later.

“Around 40 tonnes of waste was cleared last night and 20 tonnes this morning. At midnight, we deployed an earthmover to remove the residual waste near the stage area and near Kerala House, which was not accessible to us when the protests were going on. We wet-

cleaned the area throughout to remove the smell which usually arises when the area is enclosed for so long,” said Rai.

Apart from the earthmover, the operation was carried out with eight auto-tippers, two heavy trucks, and three high-pressure jetting machines, according to NDMC officials.

NDMC vice-chairperson Kuljeet Singh Chahal was at the site through the night, personally supervising the cleanliness, waste removal, repair and restoration works.

“The operation was carried out jointly by the Health & Sanitation, Civil Engineering and Horticulture departments. From last night until today, more than 500 officers and employees participated in the drive, undertaking cleaning, washing, repair and restoration of roads, footpaths, central verges, green belts, walls and other public spaces,” he said.

both ends of the protest site — the entrance from Parliament Street and the exit from Tolstoy Road. Three policemen sat beside them, eyeing every passerby as though expecting another protest to begin. “*Abhi*

kisi ko aane nahi dena hai (no one is allowed inside right now),” one of them remarked.

From a distance, came a faint sound of slogans. A smaller protest was underway. About 50-60 people sat on a red

carpet along the footpath, raising slogans for a ‘free Gorkhaland’. Hanging from the boundary wall was a banner reading ‘Gorkhaland Rashtriya Manch’ — the very spot where the CJP had pasted its first poster the day founder Abhijeet Dipke arrived from Boston.

But unlike the CJP, whose protest grew into a national movement, these protesters harbour few expectations of reaching that point. They do not expect a stage to be erected or believe the government will concede to their demands.

“We are here to raise an issue which became dead long ago. It’s different to add fuel to an already burning fire. But to get the momentum to start a fire is a lot more difficult,” says T.L. Srestha, 52, one of the protesters, referring to the CJP wave.

Across the road, tea seller Dinesh Sharma watched the CJP site being dismantled from the wooden stall with a stove, where he has spent the last two decades selling tea. He has seen it all, he said, all the agitations and protests. But the CJP one was different, he added.

“They (youngsters) were so aggressive. They would not sit in one place. They kept jumping, hooting,” he said. “I had sold tea during the Anna (Hazare) movement. But this was a different energy. I have never seen so many phones out, and so many videos being made simultaneously,” added Sharma, his customers now having dwindled to a few paramilitary personnel guarding the area.

One of the officers said they haven’t received orders to leave the site. “We have to be here tonight as well, till everything is cleared.”

By Sunday afternoon, almost every trace of the protest was gone. Yet the memory of what unfolded here over 36 days will be harder to erase. In a government where, as Rajnath Singh once remarked, “*isteeffe nahi hote*”, Gen Z, armed with phones and numerous reels, moved the political needle.

Dr Anoop Misra
Executive Chairman of Fortis C-DOC Hospital for Diabetes and Allied Sciences

Rinku Ghosh
Senior Associate Editor
The Indian Express

In conversation with

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The Indian EXPRESS
— JOURNALISM OF COURAGE —

‘Will come back to meet fellow cockroaches’: Tears, laddoos, reels mark end of Gen-Z stir

Drishti Jain & Devansh Mittal
New Delhi, July 26

CLOSE TO midnight on Saturday, six men began dismantling the makeshift iron stage at Jantar Mantar. The celebrations that erupted hours earlier after Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced his resignation had subsided, and the long queues at the Kerala House and Tolstoy Marg entrances had thinned.

Yet, several supporters lingered. Some climbed police barricades, fanning those who had stayed back. Others sat in groups sharing food, while a few took photographs beside candles lit in memory of students who died by suicide after the alleged NEET paper leak. Many simply stood looking at the now-empty stage that, for 36 days, had united them under the Cockroach Janta Party banner.

Vivek Kumar, aka Viru Bhai, turned 20 on Saturday. When *The Indian Express* last met him in early July, he had quit his job at a Gurgaon mall, joking that he was pursuing a course in “politics” at the protest site.

After spending over a month at Jantar Mantar, he found it difficult to leave. This year’s birthday, he said, had brought him nearly 15 times as many wishes as last year’s. “*Andar serona aa raha hai, ek connection sa feel ho gaya tha yahan* (I feel like crying, I’d started to feel a real connection here),” he said. “Nobody came with ego or attitude, they were real and memorable people,” Vivek added.

He glanced towards the stage, where he had spent weeks volunteering, and said he feels proud to have been part of the movement. “In 10-15 years, I’ll tell my children their father helped bring about the education minister’s resigna-



Protesters at the site on Saturday night. ABHINAV SAHA

tion on his birthday and they’d better study,” he said, laughing. Vivek, who dreams of starting his own political party in his hometown Hajipur in Bihar, was set to board a train home on Sunday. “I’m still learning, I’ll go back and join a party campaign in Bihar... In a week, I’ll go to Manipur... I met a supporter here who asked me to come and help them raise their voice,” he said.

Just then, two people passed by carrying a stack of *laddoos*.

Across the site, many sat on the ground reflecting on the past few weeks.

“All my friends are jealous that we were here when Pradhan resigned. They said: ‘You should have called us, we would have also come’,” said a bare-chested 21-year-old Imtiaz Ali, as he checked out the views on his Instagram stories.

After a day of dancing, sloganeering and cake-cutting, Ali and his three friends settled onto the Tolstoy Road footpath for the night, debating which song would best fit the reels they had shot. “On Thursday evening, we were just having tea when we decided enough was enough. We had to come to Delhi, even if it

meant getting beaten by lathis,” said Ali, who travelled nearly 24 hours from Murshidabad in West Bengal with his friends.

They were among around a hundred sleeping on the pavements outside Jantar Mantar.

Along the Kerala House stretch, supporters unfolded mosquito nets while checking train schedules. Others still milled around the protest site for one last look at the camp that had become the heart of the movement.

For Santosh Nirala, a 42-year-old mason from Saranagarh in Chhattisgarh, the journey ended in a twinge of disappointment. He and a friend were attending a wedding and boarded a train to Delhi 15 minutes after the ceremony ended on Saturday.

While passing through Agra Junction, they read the news. “A passenger told me the minister had resigned ... I couldn’t believe it. The first person I video-called was my daughter,” said Santosh, adding that she took the NEET exam this year. “I’m not a student, but my children are. There are many things that need to be corrected.”

A few hours later, police teams reached the site and requested the supporters to leave as the garbage that had piled up for over a month had to be cleared. Soon, garbage trucks rolled in. By around 1 am, the protest site, where a two-month-old online satirical platform had grown into one of the country’s first large-scale Gen Z-led protest movements, witnessing fiery speeches, songs and slogans, had fallen silent.

Vivek remained standing, leaning against a stone pillar, his eyes fixed on the empty space where the stage had stood. “I’ll come back to meet my fellow cockroaches,” he added.

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ZONAL OFFICE, SILIGURI
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PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
DATE OF E-AUCTION: 29/08/2026

E-AUCTION will take place through portal named <https://www.baanknet.com> on 29/08/2026 between 01:00 PM to 05:00 PM with unlimited extension period of 10 minutes for each BID. LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS ON BEFORE 29/08/2026 UPTO 04:00 PM

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) and Mortgagor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the UCO Bank, the symbolic/physical (mentioned in property details column against each property wherever applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of UCO Bank, will be sold on **29/08/2026 on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of Bank's dues.**

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SL. No.	Name of the Branch & Account	Details of property & Name of the owner of the property	A. Outstanding Amount B. Demand Notice Date C. Possession Date	Reserve Price	Date of Inspection	Date/ Time of e-Auction
				EMD Bid Incremental Amount		
1.	Branch: Fulbari (3279) Borrower Name: Mr. Avijeet Ghosh Guarantor(s): Mrs. Priyanka sen Ghosh Account Number: 32790610004975 Branch Manager: Ashutosh Bhaskar Contact Number: 7783844044	All Piece and Parcel of Shop Room (Marble Floor), measuring 153.00 sqft including super build up area situated in the ground floor of a G+4 storied residential cum commercial building, together with undivided proportionate share of land measuring 1(One) Katha 12.50 Chattak appertaining to and forming part of R.S. Plot No. 8177 and 8181, recorded in R.S. Khatian No. 5766, J.L. No. 110(88), Holding no. 60/534/2/184, Ward No. 6 under Siliguri Municipal Corporation area situated at Hill cart Road PO Siliguri, Mauza Siliguri, Pargana Baikunthapur, PS, Sub-div and Addl distt sub-registry office Siliguri BL and LRO Siliguri Municipal area dist Darjeeling in the state of West Bengal registered vide deed no. 040202646 dated 28/12/2015 in the name of Mr. Avijeet Ghosh. Boundaries of Shop Room : North: 16 ft wide S.M.C Road, South: Property of Sri Avijeet Ghosh, East: Shop of Late Kala Chand Ghosh, West: Shop of Sri Santosh Gupta Boundaries of Land : North: S.M.C Road, South: Land and House of Smt Meghmala Rakshit, East: Land and House of Late Kala Chand Ghosh, West: Land and House of Smt. Meghala Rakshit (Property is under Bank's Symbolic Possession)	A. ₹ 14,23,031.71 plus unapplied interest, charges, expenses & costs. B. 24/12/2025 C. 25/03/2026	₹ 24,00,000.00 ₹ 2,40,000.00 ₹ 10,000.00	29/07/2026 From 11:00 AM to 28/08/2026 04:00 PM	29/08/2026 from 01:00 PM to 05:00 PM With Unlimited 10 Minutes Auto Extension for each Bid
2.	Branch: Coochbehar (0828) Borrower Name : Mr. Dhritiman Barman Account Number: 08980610006986 Branch Manager: Rajesh Sawaiyan Contact Number: 7667577690	Registered Gift Deed No. I-535 of 22/01/2015 in the name of Sri Dhritiman Barman situated at Gunjabari North, Siliguri Road bye lane, Ward No. 01, Dist- Coochbehar, P.S.- Kotwali, Mouza- Khagrabari, J.L. No. 89, Thak No. 963, Khatian No. 1126 (RS) and 10020 (LR), Plot No. 3658 (RS) & 4400 (LR), Regd. Office- A.D.S.R.- Sadar Coochbehar, Total area 0.025 Acres (2.5 Decimal) Boundaries of the property - North: Sri Bhupendra Mohan Barman, East: Sri Tarinika Roy & Others, West: 5 Feet Golly Path, South: Sri Badal Paul (Property is under Bank's Symbolic Possession)	A. ₹ 11,08,612.42 plus unapplied interest, charges, expenses & costs. B. 28/07/2025 C. 01/11/2025	₹ 22,12,000.00 ₹ 2,22,000.00 ₹ 10,000.00	29/07/2026 From 11:00 AM to 28/08/2026 04:00 PM	29/08/2026 from 01:00 PM to 05:00 PM With Unlimited 10 Minutes Auto Extension for each Bid
3.	Branch: Coochbehar (0828) Borrower Name : Mrs. Rina Das Account Number: 08280510000939 Branch Manager: Rajesh Sawaiyan Contact Number: 7667577690	Registered Deed No.- I-8815 of 14/12/2015 in the name of Mrs. Rina Das at B.S. Road, Hazrapara, Ward No.-16, P.S.- Kotwali, Dist- Coochbehar, Mouza- Sahar Coochbehar, J.L. No.-130, Thak No.- 914, Touzi No.- 1576, Khatian no.- 1992 (RS) and 20656 (LR), Plot No.- 7592 (RS) & 10248 (LR), Regd. Office- D.S.R.-Coochbehar, Total area - 3.25 Dhur or 117 Sq.ft. Boundaries of the property - North : Dolphin Caterers, East : Road, West : Smt. Jayanti Roy, South : Road (Property is under Bank's Symbolic Possession)	A. ₹ 24,17,660.20 plus unapplied interest, charges, expenses & costs. B. 01/12/2025 C. 11/02/2026	₹ 54,03,000.00 ₹ 5,41,000.00 ₹ 10,000.00	29/07/2026 From 11:00 AM to 28/08/2026 04:00 PM	29/08/2026 from 01:00 PM to 05:00 PM With Unlimited 10 Minutes Auto Extension for each Bid

Terms and conditions:

- The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Detailed terms and conditions of the sale is available/published in the following websites/web portal named <https://www.baanknet.com>
- The properties are being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"**. The intending bidders should make their own enquires regarding the encumbrance, title of property put on auction and claim/right/dues affecting the property, the time and cost involved in taking physical possession(for properties under symbolic possession) prior to submitting their bid. All the accrued statutory dues including property tax, energy charges etc shall be borne by the successful bidder. The Authorised Officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/right/dues and also for the delay, costs and /or legal issues involved in taking physical possession (In case of property under symbolic possession).
- The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorized Officer, but the Authorized Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
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- The Successful bidder/purchaser would bear all the charges/fee payable for conveyance deed, taxes including Service Tax/TDS (As per Section 194 IA for properties valued Rs. 50 Lacs & above) if any.
- The Authorized Officer reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or vary the terms of the auction or postpone/cancel/adjourn/discontinue the auction at any time without assigning any reason and without any cost or compensation whatsoever there and the decision of the Authorized Officer in this regard shall be final and conclusive.
- This publication is also 30 days' notice to all borrower(s), guarantor(s) and mortgagor(s).
- The aforesaid properties shall not be sold below the Reserve Price mentioned above.
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- It is open to the Bank to appoint a representative and to make self-bid and participate in the auction.

Date: 20/07/2026
Place: Siliguri

Chief Manager and Authorized Officer
UCO Bank (Secured Creditor)