

Delhi

Cockroach victory: India's strongman prime minister, Narendra Modi, capitulated last week to the demands of the youth-led Cockroach movement, by accepting the resignation of his education minister. Dharmendra Pradhan stepped down on Saturday over his failure to prevent the leaking for profit of intensely competitive national university entrance exams in May. As a result of the leaks, two million people had to resit the tests and 12 deaths by suicide were linked to the debacle. The Cockroach movement, which began online in May and later formed the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), had organised rallies in Delhi and other cities demanding Pradhan's resignation and broader reforms to the examination system. When huge crowds turned out in Delhi, in an unprecedented show of dissent against Modi's rule, police used tear gas and batons to disperse them, leading to allegations of police brutality and claims that the government was suppressing dissent. The CJP called off the protests last week, when Pradhan resigned and Modi promised reforms to the exam system, but this week it threatened to restart them in response to a crackdown in which scores of its supporters have been arrested.

