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Supporters of the Cockroach Janta Party scuffle with police as they attempt to march towards India's Parliament, demanding the resignation of the education minister, in New Delhi on Monday. The protest drew students, professionals and families with young children.

India's Cockroach movement puts Modi on the defensive

Police use tear gas, batons to stop protesters demanding education reforms, minister's scalp.

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NAGPAL/AP

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Police used tear gas and batons to stop supporters of India's youth-led Cockroach movement from marching to Parliament on Monday to demand the education minister's resignation, while the government appeared to make its first outreach to the movement's leaders.

The police action came after thousands of demonstrators tried to breach security barricades surrounding the protest site in central New

As protests intensify, the government broke its silence with a first round of talks Monday.

Delhi, marking one of the most serious confrontations in the movement's campaign against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. Despite the crackdown, many protesters continued marching toward Parliament

in small groups.

Cockroach Janta Party spokesperson Saurav Das accused authorities of "brutally cracking down" on "peaceful protesters." Delhi Police said the march had not been authorized and that restrictions were needed to maintain law and order around Parliament during the monsoon session, which began Monday.

The crowd at Jantar Mantar, a designated site for protests just a few kilometers from Parliament, included students, professionals and families with young children.

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