

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. OF 2026

IN THE MATTER OF:

FREE SPEECH COLLECTIVE

...PETITIONER

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

...RESPONDENTS

ADVOCATE'S CHECK-LIST

1.	WP (C) has been filed in Form No.28 with certificate.	YES
2.	The Petition is as per the provisions of Order XV Rule 1.	YES
3.	The papers of WP have been arranged as per Order XXI, Rule 3 (1)(f)	YES
4.	Brief list of dates/events have been filed.	YES
5.	Paragraphs and pages of paper books have been numbered consecutively and correctly noted in Index.	YES
6.	Proper and required number of paper books (1+1) have been filed.	YES
7.	The particulars of the impugned judgment passed by the court(s) below are uniformly written in all the documents.	YES
8.	In case of appeal by certificate the appeal is accompanied by judgment and decree appealed from and order granting certificate.	NA
9.	The Annexures referred to in the petition are true copies of the documents before the court(s) below and are filed in chronological order as per List of Dates.	YES
10.	The annexures referred to in the petition are filed and indexed separately and not marked collectively.	YES
11.	In WP against the order passed in Second Appeal, copies of the orders passed by the Trial Court and First Appellate Court have been filed.	YES
12.	The complete listing proforma has been filled in, signed and included in the paper books.	YES
13.	In a petition (PIL) filed under clause (d) of Rule 12 (1), Order XXXVIII, the petitioner has disclosed:	YES
	(a) his full name, complete postal address, e-mail address, phone number, proof regarding personal identification, occupation and annual income, PAN	

	number and National Unique Identity Card number, if any;	
	(b) the facts constituting the cause of action;	NA
	(c) the nature of injury caused or likely to be caused to the public;	NA
	(d) the nature and extent of personal interest, if any, of the petitioner(s);	NA
	(e) details regarding any civil, criminal or revenue litigation, involving the petitioner or any of the petitioners, which has or could have a legal nexus with the issue(s) involved in the Public Interest Litigation.	NA
14.	In case of appeals under Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007, the petitioner/appellant has moved the Armed Forces Tribunal for granting certificate for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court.	NA
15.	All the paper books to be filed after curing the defects shall be in order.	YES

I hereby declare that I have personally verified the petition and its contents, and it is in conformity with the Supreme Court Rules, 2013. I certify that the above requirements of Check List have been complied with. I further certify that all the documents necessary for the purpose of hearing of the matter have been filed.

Place: New Delhi
Date: 12.10.2026

Filed By:

Aarthi Rajan

AARTHI RAJAN
Advocate or the Petitioner
CODE 2547

INDEX

SL	PARTICULARS OF DOCUMENTS	PAGE NO. OF PART TO WHICH IT BELONGS		REMARKS
		Part – I (Contents of Paper Book		Part – II (Contents of file alone
(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)
1.	Court Fees			
2.	Office Report on Limitation		A	
3.	Listing Performa		A1-A2	
4.	Cover Pages of Paper Book		A3	
5.	Index Record of Proceedings		A4	
6.	Limitation Report Prepared by the Registry		A5	
7.	Defect List		A6	
8.	Note Sheet		A7	
9.	Synopsis and List of Dates	B-L		
10.	Writ Petition under article 32 of the Constitution of India with accompanying Affidavit.	1-37		
11.	<u>ANNEXURE P-1</u> True copy of the order dated 18.08.2026 passed by this Hon'ble Court in W.P.(Crl.) No. 280/2026 and connected matters.	38-55		
12.	<u>ANNEXURE P-2</u>	56-62		

	True copy of the report published by <i>The Indian Express</i> concerning the detention of demonstrators on 02.10.2026, along with link https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/jantar-mantar-protest-gyanesh-kumar-700-detained-delhi-10904136/ .			
13.	<u>ANNEXURE P-3</u> True copy of the record concerning the suspension of mobile internet services on 02.10.2026 published by the Internet Society, along with link https://pulse.internetsociety.org/en/shutdowns/internet-suspended-in-new-dehli-india-2-october-2026/	63-67		
14.	<u>ANNEXURE P-4</u> True copy of the report published by <i>The Indian Express</i> on 03.10.2026 concerning the detention of demonstrators near Jantar Mantar, along with link https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/jantar-mantar-protest-yogendra-yadav-kapil-sibal-neha-bora-detained-cec-gyanesh-kumar-10905302/	68-70		
15.	<u>ANNEXURE P-5</u> True copy of the report published by <i>The Indian Express</i> concerning the allegations of sexual harassment against police	71-74		

	personnel and the transfer of the complaints to the Crime Branch, along with link https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/delhi-police-crime-branch-probe-sexual-harassment-journalists-jantar-mantar-protest-cec-gyanesh-kumar-10905997/			
16.	<u>ANNEXURE P-6</u> True copy of the report published by <i>The Indian Express</i> concerning the detention of approximately 120 protesters on 04.10.2026, along with link https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/aisa-chief-neha-bora-cjp-sir-cec-gyanesh-kumar-protest-jantar-mantar-detained-10906643/	75-77		
17.	<u>ANNEXURE P-7</u> True copy of the report published by <i>The Indian Express</i> concerning the detention of persons demanding action upon the complaints made by women journalists, along with link https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/female-journalists-cec-protest-sexual-assault-delhi-police-detain-protesters-gyanesh-kumar-parliament-street-10907194/	78-81		
18.	<u>ANNEXURE P-8</u>	82		

	True copy of the post dated 05.10.2026 made by Mr. Paul Koshy on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying material and link https://x.com/paul_koshy/status/2106989796111638643			
19.	<u>ANNEXURE P-9</u> True copy of the report published by <i>The Indian Express</i> on 06.10.2026 concerning the detention of opposition leaders and demonstrators, along with link https://indianexpress.com/article/india/rahul-gandhi-priyanka-detained-india-bloc-protest-cec-gyanesh-kumar-resignation-demand-10909708/	83-84		
20.	<u>ANNEXURE P-10</u> True copy of the post dated 06.10.2026 made by CNN-News18 on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying material and link https://x.com/cnnnews18/status/2107461183305400436	85-86		
21.	<u>ANNEXURE P-11</u> True copy of the report published by <i>The Indian Express</i> concerning the bail orders and the direction calling for a report on allegations of custodial assault, along with link https://indianexpress.com/article	87-88		

	e/cities/delhi/election-commission-protest-delhi-court-bail-17-protesters-arrested-10909463/ ,			
22.	<u>ANNEXURE P-12</u> True copy of the report published by <i>The Indian Express</i> on 07.10.2026 concerning the forcible removal and detention of demonstrators near Windsor Place, along with link https://indianexpress.com/article/india/rahul-gandhi-priyanka-gandhi-detained-delhi-police-india-bloc-protest-cec-gyanesh-kumar-windsor-place-10911168/,	89-90		
23.	<u>ANNEXURE P-13</u> True copy of the press release dated 08.10.2026 issued by the National Human Rights Commission, along with link https://nhrc.nic.in/media/press-release/nhrc%2C-india-takes-suo-motu-cognizance-of-the-reported-sexual-harassment-of-three-journalists-by-delhi-police-personnel-during-a-protest-at-jantar-mantar%2C-new-delhi-on-3rd-october-2026,	91-92		
24.	<u>ANNEXURE P-14</u> True copy of the order dated 09.10.2026 passed by this Hon'ble Court in W.P.(C) Diary	93-96		

	No. 63560/2026, M.A. Baby v. Union of India & Ors.			
25.	<u>ANNEXURE P-15</u> True copy of the report published by the Internet Freedom Foundation concerning the mobile internet suspension, along with link https://internetfreedom.in/delhi-learned-of-its-internet-shutdown-from-a-leaked-top-secret-police-letter-not-the-government/ ,	97-102		
26.	<u>ANNEXURE P-16</u> True copy of the report published by Reuters on 10.10.2026 concerning restrictions and large-scale detentions in Delhi, along with link https://www.reuters.com/world/india/delhi-sealed-off-ahead-youth-protest-against-indian-election-chief-2026-10-10/ ,	103-109		
27.	<u>ANNEXURE P-17</u> True copy of the report titled “Dragged and detained: Inside the Delhi police's October 10 crackdown on journalists” published by <i>The News Minute</i> on 11.10.2026, along with link https://www.thenewsminute.com/news/dragged-and-detained-inside-the-delhi-polices-october-10-crackdown-on-journalists ,	110-124		

28.	<u>ANNEXURE P-18</u> True copy of the post dated 10.10.2026 made by Ms. Radhika Bordia on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying video and link https://x.com/radhikabordia/status/2108872125583065575 ,	125		
29.	<u>ANNEXURE P-19</u> True copy of the first-person account published by Mr. Shoaib Daniyal on Scroll, along with link https://scroll.in/article/1096303/what-delhi-police-told-scrolls-shoaib-daniyal-while-detaining-him-21-km-away-from-jantar-mantar ,	126-130		
30.	<u>ANNEXURE P-20</u> True copy of the post made by Mr. Anmol Pritam on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying video and link https://x.com/anmolpritamND/status/2109209511856644250 ,	131		
31.	<u>ANNEXURE P-21</u> True copy of the post dated 10.10.2026 made by Mr. Hemant Rajaura on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying video and link https://x.com/hemantrajora/status/2108944091572502921 ,	132		
32.	<u>ANNEXURE P-22</u> True copy of the post dated 10.10.2026 made by Scroll.in	133		

	on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying material and link https://x.com/scroll_in/status/2108855126165455295 ,			
33.	<u>ANNEXURE P-23</u> True copy of the post dated 10.10.2026 made on the X account @allthingzabsurd, along with screenshots of the accompanying material and link https://x.com/allthingzabsurd/status/2108915264431775965 ,	134		
34.	<u>ANNEXURE P-24</u> True copy of the order dated 11.10.2026 passed by this Hon'ble Court in Contempt Petition (Civil) Diary No. 63801/2026 and connected matters.	135-145		
35.	<u>ANNEXURE P-25</u> True copy of the contemporaneous post made by Mr. Sreenivasan Jain on X at approximately 15:33 hrs, along with screenshots of the accompanying video.	146		
36.	<u>ANNEXURE P-26</u> True copy of the subsequent post dated 11.10.2026 made by Mr. Sreenivasan Jain on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying material and link https://x.com/sreenivasanjain/status/2109230114454319606 ,	147		
37.	<u>ANNEXURE P-27</u>	148-160		

	True copy of the report published by Scroll.in concerning the detention and manhandling of journalists on 11.10.2026, along with link https://scroll.in/latest/1096321/cec-protests-at-least-nine-journalists-detained-while-covering-demonstrations-in-delhi .			
38.	<u>ANNEXURE P-28</u> True copy of the report published by <i>The Indian Express</i> concerning the detention of Shashwat, Siya and Vijay, along with link https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/cjp-protest-in-delhi-indian-express-journalists-detained-connaught-place-chhatrasal-stadium-supreme-court-section-163-bnss-10916688/ ,	161-163		
39.	<u>ANNEXURE P-29</u> True copy of the post dated 11.10.2026 made by Ms. Dhanya Rajendran on X concerning the detention of Ms. Nidhi Suresh, along with link https://x.com/dhanyarajendran/status/2109277584462942593	164-165		
40.	<u>ANNEXURE P-30</u> True copy of the post dated 11.10.2026 made by Ms. Hemani Bhandari on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying video.	166-167		

41.	<u>ANNEXURE P-31</u> True copy of the report published by <i>The Caravan</i> on 12.10.2026 concerning the alleged assault and detention of Mr. Ryan Thomas on 11.10.2026, along with link https://caravanmagazine.in/news/delhi-police-beats-caravan-journalist-sir-protests ,	168-177		
42.	<u>ANNEXURE P-32</u> True copy of the report published by <i>The Indian Express</i> concerning the alleged assault upon Mr. John Brittas, along with link https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/john-brittas-detained-delhi-protest-election-commission-gyanesh-kumar-10917186/ ,	178-182		
43.	<u>ANNEXURE P-33</u> True copy of the report titled “Women Activists Manhandled, Detained After Sunset, Carried Away in Bus Without Women Cops, Say SFI” published by <i>The Wire</i> , along with link https://thewire.in/government/women-activists-manhandled-detained-after-sunset-carried-away-in-bus-without-women-cops-say-sfi ,	183-186		
44.	<u>ANNEXURE P-34</u> True copy of the post dated 11.10.2026 made on the X account @dekoderai, along	187		

	with screenshots of the accompanying material and link https://x.com/dekoderai/status/2109250512470323539 ,			
45.	<u>ANNEXURE P-35</u> True copy of the post dated 11.10.2026 made on the X account @mr_mayank, along with screenshots of the accompanying material and link https://x.com/mr_mayank/status/2109253511032819866 ,	188		
46.	<u>ANNEXURE P-36</u> True copy of the post dated 11.10.2026 made on the X account @pragyalive, along with screenshots of the accompanying material and link https://x.com/pragyalive/status/2109342268511653939 ,	189		
47.	<u>ANNEXURE P-37</u> True copy of the report published by <i>The Hindu</i> concerning the detention of journalists and the explanation attributed to Delhi Police, along with link https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/anti-cec-protests-continue-journalists-detained-despite-sc-order-rahul-gandhi-announces-march-to-supreme-court-as-delhi-braces-for-fresh-curbs/article71572486.ece ,	190-191		
48.	<u>ANNEXURE P-38</u>	192		

	True copy of the post dated 11.10.2026 made by SFLC.in on X, along with link https://x.com/SFLCin/status/2109290733425299881 ,			
49.	<u>ANNEXURE P-39</u> True copy of the report published by <i>The Indian Express</i> on 12.10.2026 concerning the Standing Order dated 11.10.2026 de-notifying Jantar Mantar as a designated protest venue, along with link https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/delhis-jantar-mantar-no-longer-designated-protest-site-police-ramlila-maidan-two-other-grounds-delhi-police-congress-march-cjp-10917797/ ,	193-195		
50.	<u>ANNEXURE P-40</u> True copy of the report dated 12.10.2026 published by Reuters concerning the restrictions upon Metro services and traffic movement, along with link https://www.reuters.com/world/india/delhi-shuts-metro-stations-restricts-traffic-ahead-new-protest-against-election-2026-10-12/ ,	196-198		
51.	<u>ANNEXURE P-41</u> True copy of the post dated 12.10.2026 made by Peek TV on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying material and	199-200		

	link https://x.com/peektv_in/status/2109531792814526667 ,			
52.	Filing Memo	201		
53.	Vakalatnama and Appearance	202		
54.	Resolution	203		

Place: New Delhi
Date: 12.10.2026

Filed By:

Aarthi Rajan

AARTHI RAJAN

Advocate for Petitioner
AOR CODE 2547

**PROFORMA FOR FIRST LISTING IN THE SUPREME COURT OF
INDIA**

SECTION: PIL

The case pertains to (Please tick/check the correct box): -		
(a)	Central Act: (Title)	
(b)	Section	-
(c)	Central Rule: (Title)	
(d)	Rule No (s)	NA
(e)	State Act: (Title)	NA
(f)	Section:-	NA
(g)	State Rule: (Title)	NA
(h)	Rule No (s):	NA
(i)	Impugned Interim order: (Date)	NA
(j)	Impugned Final order/Decree:(Date)	NA
(k)	High court: (Name)	NA
(l)	Names of judges	NA
(m)	Tribunal/Authority:(Name)	NA
1.	Nature of matter (Civil/ Criminal)	CIVIL
2.	(a) Petitioner name	Free Speech Collective
	(b) E-mail ID:	NA
	(c) Mobile phone number	NA
3.	(a) Respondent name	1. Union of India 2. Government of NCT of Delhi 3. Commissioner of Police
	(b) E-mail ID:	NA
	(c) Mobile phone number	NA
4.	(a) Main category classification:	18
	(b) Sub classification	1807
5.	Not to be listed before	NA
6.	(a) Similar Disposed of matter with citation, if any, & cases details.	No similar matter disposed of.
	(b) Similar pending matter with case details.	1. Diary No.63560/2026 M A Baby v. Union of India 2. Diary No.63943/2026 Aman Prasad v. Anurag Kumar 3. Diary No.63801/2026 Shailendra Mani Tripathi v. Govind Mohan 4. Diary No.63952/2026 Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v. Union of India

			5. Diary No.63858/2026 Menaka Guruswamy v. Union of India
7.	Criminal matters:-		No
	(a)	Whether accused/ convict has surrendered:	NA
	(b)	FIR No./Complaint No. Date:	
	(c)	Police Station	
	(d)	Sentence Awarded	NA
	(e)	Sentence undergone	NA
	(f)	Whether any earlier case between the same parties is filed	NA
	(g)	Particulars of the FIR and Case	
	(h)	Whether any bail application was preferred earlier and decision thereupon	NA
8.	Land acquisition matters:		NA
	(a)	Date of section 4 notification	NA
	(b)	Date of section 6 notification	NA
	(c)	Date of section 17 notification	NA
9.	Tax matters: State the tax effect:		NA
10.	Special Category		NA
	(first petitioner/ appellant only):		NA
	(a)	Senior citizen >65 years	NA
	(b)	SC/ST	NA
	(c)	Woman/child	NA
	(d)	Disable	NA
	(e)	Legal Aid case	NA
	(f)	In custody	NA
11.	Vehicle number (in case of motor accident claim matter):		NA
12.	Whether there was / is litigation on the same point of law, if yes details thereof		NA

Place: New Delhi
Date: 12.10.2026

Filed By:

Aarthi Rajan

AARTHI RAJAN
Advocate or the Petitioner
CODE 25477

SYNOPSIS

The present Writ Petition under Article 32 of the Constitution is instituted by Free Speech Collective, through its authorised representative, Geeta Seshu, an association formed in 2018 comprising journalists, media professionals, writers, researchers and free-speech advocates committed to the protection and promotion of freedom of speech and expression and of the press in India. • Through its website, <https://freespeechcollective.in/>, the Petitioner documents violations of free expression, tracks attacks on journalists and media institutions, supports persons facing reprisals for exercising free expression, and undertakes advocacy concerning press freedom, democratic rights and civil liberties. The Petition seeks urgent enforcement of the fundamental rights guaranteed by Articles 14, 19(1)(a), 19(1)(d) and 21. It challenges not merely isolated obstruction, but an asserted course of police action comprising unlawful detention, forcible removal, physical assault, manhandling, intimidation, disregard of press credentials and the calculated exclusion and removal of journalists from places where public power was being exercised. Unless restrained by law and judicial review, such conduct converts the constitutional freedom of the press into a paper guarantee.

On 10.10.2026, journalists covering protests concerning the Chief Election Commissioner and the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls were reportedly detained, obstructed, transported away from reporting locations and prevented from documenting events. The affected

journalists included persons associated with Scroll, Newslaundry, Reuters, Business Standard, BOOMLive, India Today, The News Minute, Maktoob Media, The Indian Express, PTI, The Quint and other media organisations. These incidents occurred amid extensive barricading, transport and Metro disruption, internet suspension, a deployment reported to exceed 40,000 police and paramilitary personnel, and the sealing of Jantar Mantar even to media personnel. The scale and geographical spread of the interference belie any suggestion of a momentary or accidental impediment.

The constitutional injury is graver than a dispute about access. The material placed with the Petition records reporters being dragged, physically manhandled and forced into police vehicles; identifiable journalists being subjected to force despite displaying or asserting their press status; and injury to a media worker during newsgathering. The use of force against a journalist is not a collateral consequence of crowd control. It disables the very process by which the public learns how coercive State power is being exercised, suppresses contemporaneous evidence and warns every reporter on the ground that scrutiny may invite physical reprisal.

The events form part of a wider context already before this Hon'ble Court. In the orders dated 28.07.2026 and 18.08.2026, this Hon'ble Court took cognisance of allegations of indiscriminate and excessive police force, including an alleged assault upon a member of the media,

and constituted a High-Powered Enquiry Committee to examine proportionality, accountability, identification of officers, the chain of command and alleged violence. On 09.10.2026 and 11.10.2026, the Court was further informed of transport shutdowns, internet disruption, curbs on movement, harassment and illegal detention extending beyond the area covered by Section 163 of the BNSS, 2023.

On 11.10.2026, after recording the assurance made on behalf of the authorities, this Hon'ble Court directed in categorical terms that lawyers, journalists and other professionals shall not be hindered in discharge of their professional duties in any manner whatsoever. The judicial order admits of no police-created exception based merely on proximity, supposed confusion, possession of a camera, questioning an officer, recording a detention or remaining present where coercive action is taking place.

Yet the available accounts describe further detention, coercive removal, dragging and prolonged confinement of journalists after the direction. Reporters who identified themselves, displayed press cards or were visibly recording were treated as suspected participants rather than independent observers. No specific offence, disobedience of a lawful direction or necessity was communicated in the reported incidents. Release followed only after transportation, delay or belated recognition of press status. What emerges is not lawful regulation but an arbitrary field practice in which a journalist's liberty and bodily safety

depend upon the discretion, or confusion, of the officer encountered.

Such a practice strikes directly at the architecture of Article 19(1)(a). A free press must be able to approach, observe, question, record and report the exercise of public power, especially during protests, dispersals, arrests and crowd-control operations. If the police may equate observation with participation, disregard credentials, seize the reporter's person and remove the reporter from the scene, the resulting account is necessarily filtered by the very authority whose conduct requires independent scrutiny. The chilling effect is immediate: journalists retreat, evidence disappears, public knowledge contracts and democratic accountability is defeated.

The foregoing incidents arise against the broader and documented deterioration of conditions for journalism in India. India is reported as ranking 157th in the World Press Freedom Index <https://rsf.org/en/country/india>. The Petitioner relies upon this ranking not as a standalone cause of action, but as a relevant contributory indicator which, read with acts of violence against journalists, the use of force by Delhi Police, and the repeated targeting of members of the press, demonstrates the urgency of effective constitutional safeguards. Freedom of the press is indispensable because it enables scrutiny of public power, informs citizens, protects the public right to know, and sustains democratic accountability, particularly during protests and crowd-control

operations when independent observation is most necessary.

The Petition therefore seeks relief against both obstruction and violence. It asks this Hon'ble Court to recognise that physical force, threats, retaliatory detention, coercive transportation, destruction or seizure of journalistic material, and discriminatory targeting of members of the press are aggravated forms of interference with newsgathering. They simultaneously offend dignity and bodily integrity under Article 21, equality and non-arbitrariness under Article 14, movement under Article 19(1)(d), and press freedom and the public's right to know under Article 19(1)(a).

The Petition raises questions that go to the heart of Article 19(1)(a). Beginning with *Romesh Thappar v. State of Madras* and *Brij Bhushan v. State of Delhi*, and continuing through *Sakal Papers v. Union of India*, *Bennett Coleman & Co. v. Union of India*, *Indian Express Newspapers v. Union of India*, *Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting v. Cricket Association of Bengal*, *Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India* and *Kaushal Kishor v. State of Uttar Pradesh*, this Hon'ble Court has consistently recognised that freedom of the press is an indispensable component of the freedom of speech and expression and that citizens possess a corresponding right to receive information concerning matters of public importance.

The constitutional infirmity is intensified where police personnel act without visible identification or where the chain

of command, deployment records and contemporaneous communications are withheld. Accountability cannot depend upon a journalist identifying an unnamed officer in a chaotic crowd-control setting. Preservation and disclosure of CCTV footage, body-worn camera recordings, police videography, wireless traffic, duty rosters, detention registers, vehicle logs and medical records are therefore indispensable to effective judicial review.

The Petitioner submits that constitutional protection extends not merely to publication, but also to the antecedent processes of newsgathering, documentation and dissemination of information. • The incidents complained of disclose a grave constitutional injury to the very functioning of the press. State action that obstructs journalists from observing, documenting and communicating matters of public concern impairs both press freedom and the public's right to know. If journalists are prevented from witnessing and reporting the exercise of public power, the constitutional guarantee of a free press risks becoming illusory.

The Petition accordingly seeks enforcement of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 19(1)(a), 19(1)(d) and 21 of the Constitution and appropriate directions, safeguards and guidelines protecting journalists and media professionals from unlawful detention, obstruction, coercive removal, intimidation and interference in the discharge of their professional duties.

Hence, the present Writ Petition.

LIST OF DATES

DATE	EVENTS
18.08.2026	This Hon'ble Court constituted a High-Powered Enquiry Committee to examine use of force, proportionality of the police response, pellets, identification of officers, surveillance, violence against women, compensation, blanket orders under Section 163 BNSS and use of Section 152 BNS. It was directed that the Committee may consider incidental issues and report periodically, while broader constitutional questions were reserved. It is pertinent that while the enquiry addressed the legality and proportionality of policing protests, the enumerated issues do not include access, detention or removal of journalists, or safeguards for reporting and newsgathering at the sites.
09.10.2026	In WP (C) Diary No. 63560/2026, heard with WP (Crl.) Diary No. 63544/2026, this Hon'ble Court recorded that a complete ban on essential public transport appears overreaching. The Ld. Solicitor General submitted that he would seek reassessment. It was directed inter alia that there be no outright prohibition on Metro trains, that any

such regulation be publicized including by way of traffic advisory, and a compliance report be submitted.

- 09.10.2026** DMRC announces closure of 57 Metro stations, later revised to 45; mobile internet is suspended within four (4) kilometres of the Janpath–Kartavya Path crossing; more than 40,000 police and central armed police personnel are deployed; and Jantar Mantar is reported sealed “even to media personnel”.
- to**
- 10.10.2026** Contempt Petition (Civil) Diary No. 63801/2026 challenges the alleged breach of this Hon’ble Court’s direction specific to transport services and movement of persons. However, the restrictions designed for public order/crowd control are applied so as to prevent the press from observing and communicating how those very restrictions are enforced.
- 10.10.2026** Journalists covering the protests are detained in Delhi and elsewhere. Mr. Ayush Tiwari of Scroll, though wearing a press pass, is detained outside HKS Surjeet Bhawan after an officer remarks, “aaj kal sab hi press waale hai”. Scroll reports the detention of its journalists Ayush Tiwari and Shoaib Daniyal in Delhi and Divya Aslesha in Pune, together with journalists of Newslaundry, The Quint, Navbharat Times, Reuters, Alt News, Boom

Live, Molitics and Reporter TV; Reporters Sans Frontières counts at least 16 journalists. No offence, prohibitory direction or individual conduct justifying their removal is identified in the accounts.

The interference/hindrane to journalists is not an isolated dispute over access to one site, but a recurring pattern of treating proximity to a protest, possession of recording equipment, or the act of reporting as sufficient grounds for restraint.

11.10.2026, During urgent proceedings in CP (C) Diary
[●] hours No. 63801/2026 and WP (CrI.) Diary No. 63858/2026, submissions were made before this Hon'ble Court of widespread illegal detention of a large number of persons, including beyond the area covered by Section 163 BNSS.

On the Ld. Solicitor General's assurance, this Hon'ble Court directed in para 16(f): *"Lawyers, journalists and other professionals shall not be hindered in discharge of their professional duties in any manner whatsoever."*

11.10.2026, After the Court's categorical direction,
after the accounts placed before the Petitioner
direction describe journalists at RK Ashram Marg being put into a police vehicle for questioning a colleague's detention; Vedanta Agarwal and Sara Khan of Peek TV being dragged

and detained at Connaught Place despite showing press cards; injury to a cameraperson; Nidhi Suresh of The News Minute and another woman journalist being held for hours; and a reporter of The Hindu being released only after her professional status was eventually accepted. The incidents disclose alleged force, confinement and disregard of press identification without communication of a specific offence or recorded necessity. They demonstrate that the constitutional breach was continuing and recurrent.

- 11.10.2026, evening** Reports stated that journalists were detained at different locations, including persons wearing identity cards or recording on phones, and attributed the police action to reporters being 'too close' to protesters or to 'confusion'. Even on the police explanation as reported, proximity and confusion cannot constitute lawful grounds for violence, detention or removal of identifiable journalists. The Respondents' records are necessary to disclose the full scale, duration, location and chain of responsibility.
- 11.10.2026 to 13.10.2026** Contempt Petition (C) Diary No. 63801/2026, WP (Crl.) Diary No. 63858/2026 and connected diary matters are listed on 13.10.2026, with compliance due.

12.10.2026 A further protest march to this Hon'ble Court is announced, and the extensive arrangements of 10.10.2026 are reported likely to return.

Journalists covering the next public assembly remain dependent upon the general words of para 16(f) of this Hon'ble Court's Order, without a stated protocol or framework guiding authorities/officers on the ground preventing repetition.

It is respectfully submitted that the continuing prospect of restraint demonstrates that retrospective contempt and assurances have not secured the institutional freedom of the press or the public's corresponding right to receive information.

Hence the present writ Petition.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
 WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. _____ OF 2026
 [INVOKING ARTICLE 32 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA]

IN THE MATTER OF:

FREE SPEECH COLLECTIVE ...PETITIONER

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS. ...RESPONDENTS

IN THE MATTER OF

1) **FREE SPEECH COLLECTIVE** PETITIONER
 Through Ms. Geeta Seshu,

VERSUS

1) **UNION OF INDIA** RESPONDENT
 Through the Secretary NO.1
 Ministry of Home Affairs,
 North Block,
 New Delhi – 110001

2) **GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI** RESPONDENT
 Through the Secretary NO.2
 3rd level, Delhi Secretariat,
 I.P. Estate,
 New Delhi – 110002

3) **COMMISSIONER OF POLICE** RESPONDENT
 Police Headquarters, Jai Singh NO.3
 Marg, Connaught Place,
 New Delhi – 110001

WRIT PETITION UNDER ARTICLE 32 OF THE
CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

TO

THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA
 AND HIS COMPANION JUSTICES OF THIS

HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE
PETITIONER ABOVENAMED

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

INTRODUCTION:

1. The present Writ Petition under Article 32 is instituted by FreeSpeech Collective through its authorised representative Ms. Geeta Seshu. It seeks urgent enforcement of Articles 14, 19(1)(a), 19(1)(d) and 21 against an asserted pattern of detention, forcible removal, assault, manhandling, intimidation and exclusion of journalists by police authorities while the journalists were engaged in bona fide newsgathering and reporting.

2. Reported and recorded instances include reporters dragged towards a police vehicle, camerapersons injured while recording, journalists detained after displaying press credentials and prevented from gathering and preserving information at the precise moment when independent scrutiny is most necessary. Such conduct burdens the individual journalist performing her duties, disables the institutional press and deprives the public of contemporaneous evidence concerning State action.

3. The Petition concerns a grave and continuing attack upon the freedom of the press. The core issue is whether the State may, without an identified offence, recorded necessity or proportionate basis, treat a journalist's act of witnessing and reporting police action as grounds for

detention or force. This Hon'ble Court's jurisprudence answers that question in the negative.

BRIEF FACT

4. **18.08.2026: CONSTITUTION OF HIGH-POWERED ENQUIRY COMMITTEE:** This Hon'ble Court, in W.P.(CrI.) No. 280/2026 and connected matters, constituted a High-Powered Enquiry Committee to examine allegations concerning the use of excessive and indiscriminate police force during earlier demonstrations. The Committee was directed to examine, inter alia, the proportionality of police action, identification of police personnel, allegations of violence against women, surveillance, the use of prohibitory orders under Section 163 BNSS, and questions of police accountability. • The said proceedings concerned allegations of police excess during earlier demonstrations. The present Petition concerns the subsequent and continuing police action commencing on 02.10.2026, including the treatment of journalists and persons participating in peaceful assemblies. • True copy of the order dated 18.08.2026 passed by this Hon'ble Court in W.P.(CrI.) No. 280/2026 and connected matters is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-1 (pgs. 38 to 55)**.

5. **02.10.2026: COMMENCEMENT OF PROTESTS; BARRICADING AND PREVENTIVE DETENTIONS:** Demonstrations commenced in Delhi demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and raising concerns regarding the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. The demonstrations involved

political organisations, students, civil-society groups and members of the public. • Delhi Police declined permission for the proposed demonstration at Jantar Mantar and deployed police personnel and barricades along the approaches to the protest site. Demonstrators approaching Jantar Mantar were stopped and detained. Contemporary reporting records the detention of several hundred persons, including Ms. Atishi, Ms. Neha Bora, Ms. Aishe Ghosh, Mr. Yogendra Yadav and other activists and political leaders. • The police action was not confined to dispersing an assembly already in progress. Persons attempting to reach Jantar Mantar were intercepted and placed in police vehicles before reaching the proposed location of the demonstration. [The Indian Express](#) True copy of the report published by *The Indian Express* concerning the detention of demonstrators on 02.10.2026, along with link <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/jantar-mantar-protest-gyanesh-kumar-700-detained-delhi-10904136/>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-2 (pgs. 56 to 62)**.

6. **02.10.2026: SUSPENSION OF MOBILE INTERNET SERVICES**: Mobile internet services were suspended in the vicinity of Jantar Mantar for approximately twelve hours, between 09:00 and 21:00 hrs. • The suspension was reportedly ordered by the Ministry of Home Affairs in connection with the demonstrations and was implemented under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, read with the Telecommunications (Temporary Suspension of Services) Rules, 2024. • The restriction affected communications in

the area surrounding the proposed protest site, including the ability of persons present to transmit photographs, videos and other contemporaneous information. The underlying suspension order and the material relied upon by the competent authority require examination. [Internet Society Pulse](#). • True copy of the record concerning the suspension of mobile internet services on 02.10.2026 published by the Internet Society, along with link <https://pulse.internetsociety.org/en/shutdowns/internet-suspended-in-new-dehli-india-2-october-2026/>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-3 (pgs. 63 to 67)**.

7. **03.10.2026: SECOND CONSECUTIVE DAY OF DETENTIONS:** On 03.10.2026, persons attempting to proceed towards Jantar Mantar were again prevented from reaching the proposed demonstration. Delhi Police detained several protesters, including AISA National President Ms. Neha Bora and Mr. Yogendra Yadav. • The police maintained that permission had not been granted for the demonstrations. Protesters were detained while approaching the designated protest area, notwithstanding that the assembly had not been permitted to take place at the intended location. [The Indian Express](#). • True copy of the report published by *The Indian Express* on 03.10.2026 concerning the detention of demonstrators near Jantar Mantar, along with link <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/jantar-mantar-protest-yogendra-yadav-kapil-sibal-neha-bora-detained-cec-gyanesh-kumar-10905302/>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-4 (pgs. 68 to 70)**.

8. **03.10.2026: SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF THREE WOMEN JOURNALISTS:** Three women journalists reporting upon the demonstrations near Jantar Mantar alleged that they had been subjected to sexual harassment by Delhi Police personnel while discharging their professional duties. The allegations concerned conduct occurring during the policing of the demonstrations. The complainants approached the authorities seeking action against the officers concerned. Delhi Police subsequently acknowledged receipt of the complaints and stated that they had been referred to the Crime Branch for enquiry. • The allegations raise a distinct issue concerning the use of police authority against journalists documenting public demonstrations and the effectiveness of the mechanism available to investigate misconduct by police personnel. [The Indian Express](#). • True copy of the report published by *The Indian Express* concerning the allegations of sexual harassment against police personnel and the transfer of the complaints to the Crime Branch, along with link <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/delhi-police-crime-branch-probe-sexual-harassment-journalists-jantar-mantar-protest-cec-gyanesh-kumar-10905997/>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-5 (pgs. 71 to 74)**.

9. **04.10.2026 CONTINUED DETENTION OF PROTESTERS:** The demonstrations continued for the third consecutive day. Approximately 120 protesters, including Ms. Neha Bora and Mr. Yogendra Yadav, were reportedly detained for several hours while attempting to march

towards Jantar Mantar. • The detentions followed the allegations of sexual harassment made by the three women journalists on the preceding day. Demonstrators also demanded registration of complaints and appropriate action against the police personnel accused of misconduct. [The Indian Express](#) • True copy of the report published by *The Indian Express* concerning the detention of approximately 120 protesters on 04.10.2026, along with link <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/aisa-chief-neha-bora-cjp-sir-cec-gyanesh-kumar-protest-jantar-mantar-detained-10906643/>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-6 (pgs. 75 to 77)**.

10. **05.10.2026** DETENTION OF COMPLAINANT JOURNALIST AND PERSONS SEEKING POLICE ACTION

On 05.10.2026, approximately seventeen persons who had remained outside Parliament Street Police Station demanding registration of an FIR and action concerning the alleged sexual harassment of three women journalists were detained by Delhi Police. The persons detained reportedly included one of the journalists who had complained of sexual harassment during the demonstration on 03.10.2026. The incident raises a further concern regarding the use of preventive detention against persons seeking action upon allegations of misconduct by police personnel. [The Indian Express](#) • True copy of the report published by *The Indian Express* concerning the detention of persons demanding action upon the complaints made by women journalists, along with link <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/female->

[journalists-cec-protest-sexual-assault-delhi-police-detain-protesters-gyanesh-kumar-parliament-street-10907194/](#), is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-7 (pgs. 78 to 81)**. • True copy of the post dated 05.10.2026 made by Mr. Paul Koshy on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying material and link https://x.com/paul_koshy/status/2106989796111638643, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-8 (pgs. 82 to 82)**.

11. **06.10.2026:** POLICE ACTION AGAINST OPPOSITION DEMONSTRATORS: On 06.10.2026, Members of Parliament and political leaders belonging to the INDIA bloc organised a demonstration demanding the resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner. • The protesters sought to march towards the Election Commission. Delhi Police prevented the march from proceeding and restricted movement along the approaches to the Commission's office. Following a prolonged demonstration and sit-in near Akashvani Bhavan, police personnel detained several participants, including Mr. Rahul Gandhi and Ms. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who were released later that evening. [The Indian Express](#). True copy of the report published by *The Indian Express* on 06.10.2026 concerning the detention of opposition leaders and demonstrators, along with link <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/rahul-gandhi-priyanka-detained-india-bloc-protest-cec-gyanesh-kumar-resignation-demand-10909708/>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-9 (pgs. 83 to 84)**. • True copy of

the post dated 06.10.2026 made by CNN-News18 on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying material and link

<https://x.com/cnnnews18/status/2107461183305400436>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-10 (pgs. 85 to 86)**.

12. **06.10.2026:** JUDICIAL NOTICE OF ALLEGED ASSAULT UPON PERSONS IN POLICE CUSTODY: In separate proceedings concerning the demonstrations, the Patiala House Court granted bail to seventeen persons arrested during the protests. • The Court also called for a report from the Deputy Commissioner of Police, New Delhi, concerning allegations that two arrested persons had been beaten at Parliament Street Police Station. • The direction is relevant to the allegations of physical force and custodial misconduct arising from the policing of the demonstrations. [The Indian Express](#). • True copy of the report published by *The Indian Express* concerning the bail orders and the direction calling for a report on allegations of custodial assault, along with link <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/election-commission-protest-delhi-court-bail-17-protesters-arrested-10909463/>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-11 (pgs. 87 to 88)**.

13. **07.10.2026:** FORCIBLE REMOVAL AND DETENTION OF DEMONSTRATORS: On 07.10.2026, opposition leaders again attempted to proceed towards Jantar Mantar. Police barricaded the approaches near

Windsor Place and prevented the procession from reaching the proposed protest site. • A confrontation followed when demonstrators attempted to continue their march. Police personnel forcibly removed and detained several participants, including Mr. Rahul Gandhi and Ms. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. • Contemporaneous reporting records that Mr. Rahul Gandhi was physically removed from the demonstration and placed in a police vehicle. He was subsequently taken to Barakhamba Police Station. [The Indian Express](#). True copy of the report published by *The Indian Express* on 07.10.2026 concerning the forcible removal and detention of demonstrators near Windsor Place, along with link <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/rahul-gandhi-priyanka-gandhi-detained-delhi-police-india-bloc-protest-cec-gyanesh-kumar-windsor-place-10911168/>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-12 (pgs. 89 to 90)**.

14. **08.10.2026:** NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TAKES COGNISANCE: The National Human Rights Commission took suo motu cognisance of the reported sexual harassment of three women journalists by Delhi Police personnel during the demonstrations on 03.10.2026. • The Commission observed that the allegations, if true, raised serious questions concerning the violation of human rights. Notice was issued to the Commissioner of Police, Delhi, calling for a detailed report within two weeks. • The Commission also recorded that the complaints made by the journalists had been referred to the Crime Branch for enquiry. [National Human Rights](#)

Commission. • True copy of the press release dated 08.10.2026 issued by the National Human Rights Commission, along with link <https://nhrc.nic.in/media/press-release/nhrc%2C-india-takes-suo-motu-cognizance-of-the-reported-sexual-harassment-of-three-journalists-by-delhi-police-personnel-during-a-protest-at-jantar-mantar%2C-new-delhi-on-3rd-october-2026>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-13 (pgs. 91 to 92)**.

15. **08.10.2026: PROPOSED RESTRICTIONS UPON METRO SERVICES:** In anticipation of the proposed demonstration on 10.10.2026, Delhi Police issued a communication dated 08.10.2026 concerning the closure of entry and exit gates at 57 Delhi Metro stations and restrictions upon Metro operations. • Further communications concerned the cancellation or regulation of railway services. The proposed restrictions affected access to essential public transportation in anticipation of the movement of demonstrators towards central Delhi. These restrictions subsequently became the subject of proceedings before this Hon'ble Court.

16. **09.10.2026: SUPREME COURT INTERVENTION CONCERNING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:** This Hon'ble Court, in W.P.(C) Diary No. 63560/2026, *M.A. Baby v. Union of India & Ors.*, considered the restrictions proposed upon Metro and railway services. • This Hon'ble Court observed that complete prohibition upon essential public transportation appeared overreaching, distinguished between regulation and prohibition, and directed that there

should be no outright prohibition upon Metro services. • The learned Solicitor General agreed to seek reconsideration of the proposed restrictions. The Court directed that any regulation of transport services be publicised through appropriate advisories and required the authorities concerned to file a compliance report within four days. True copy of the order dated 09.10.2026 passed by this Hon'ble Court in W.P.(C) Diary No. 63560/2026, M.A. Baby v. Union of India & Ors., is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-14** (pgs. 93 to 96).

17. 09.10.2026 TO 10.10.2026: MOBILE INTERNET SUSPENSION AND RESTRICTIONS UPON MOVEMENT:

A further suspension of mobile internet services was directed in central Delhi, reportedly covering an area extending approximately four kilometres from the Janpath–Kartavya Path crossing. • The suspension was communicated to telecommunications service providers in anticipation of the demonstration scheduled for 10.10.2026. • The restrictions coincided with the proposed closure of Metro stations, regulation of railway services, extensive police deployment, road barricading and restrictions upon movement in central Delhi. • The suspension of mobile internet services also affected the ability of journalists and persons present at the demonstrations to communicate and transmit contemporaneous information. • True copy of the report published by the Internet Freedom Foundation concerning the mobile internet suspension, along with link <https://internetfreedom.in/delhi-learned-of-its-internet-shutdown-from-a-leaked-top-secret-police-letter-not-the->

[government/](#), is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-15 (pgs. 97 to 102).**

18. **10.10.2026: LARGE-SCALE DETENTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS ACROSS DELHI:** On 10.10.2026, Delhi Police and central security forces imposed extensive restrictions upon movement in different parts of Delhi in anticipation of the proposed demonstration at Jantar Mantar.

- Persons attempting to reach the designated protest site were stopped, and large numbers of demonstrators were placed in police vehicles and transported to detention locations.
- The police action extended to locations away from Jantar Mantar, including Connaught Place, Raj Ghat, Dilli Haat and other areas where smaller groups had assembled after access to the intended protest site was restricted.
- Contemporaneous reports recorded the detention of more than 2,000 persons and the use of stadiums and other locations as temporary detention centres. [Reuters](#)
- True copy of the report published by Reuters on 10.10.2026 concerning restrictions and large-scale detentions in Delhi, along with link <https://www.reuters.com/world/india/delhi-sealed-off-ahead-youth-protest-against-indian-election-chief-2026-10-10/>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-16 (pgs. 103 to 109).**

19. **10.10.2026: JOURNALISTS DRAGGED, MANHANDLED AND DETAINED DESPITE PRESS IDENTIFICATION:** Journalists covering the demonstrations were also detained and reportedly subjected to physical

force notwithstanding the display of press identification. • Mr. Ayush Tiwari of Scroll reported that police personnel pushed him while he was recording the detention of demonstrators near HKS Surjeet Bhawan. His shirt was torn, and he sustained an injury to his waist. • Ms. Anushka Bhardwaj of *Business Standard* was reportedly dragged by her clothes notwithstanding her repeated identification as a journalist. • Reuters journalist Mr. Saurabh Sharma was also reportedly dragged and kicked by a police officer who was wearing a mask and whose name was not visibly displayed. • Journalists associated with Newslaundry, India Today, Molitics, BOOMLive and other media organisations were also reportedly detained or forced into police vehicles. Several accounts record interference with journalists' mobile phones and recording equipment. These incidents involved the physical removal of journalists from locations at which they were documenting the exercise of police authority. [The News Minute](#). • True copy of the report titled “Dragged and detained: Inside the Delhi police's October 10 crackdown on journalists” published by *The News Minute* on 11.10.2026, along with link <https://www.thenewsminute.com/news/dragged-and-detained-inside-the-delhi-polices-october-10-crackdown-on-journalists>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-17 (pgs. 110 to 124)**.

20. **10.10.2026: JOURNALIST FORCIBLY PLACED INSIDE POLICE BUS:** A contemporaneous video circulated by Ms. Radhika Bordia records police personnel pushing and shoving a journalist associated with Molitics before

placing the journalist inside a police bus. • The incident occurred during the detention of demonstrators and journalists on 10.10.2026. The published account records that police personnel were aware that their actions were being filmed, yet continued to remove the journalist. [The News Minute](#). • True copy of the post dated 10.10.2026 made by Ms. Radhika Bordia on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying video and link <https://x.com/radhikabordia/status/2108872125583065575>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-18 (pgs. 125 to 125)**.

21. **10.10.2026:** JOURNALIST DETAINED APPROXIMATELY 21 KILOMETRES FROM PROTEST SITE: Mr. Shoaib Daniyal, Political Editor of Scroll, was detained by Delhi Police while waiting for a taxi in South Delhi, approximately 21 kilometres from Jantar Mantar. • According to his first-person account, police personnel questioned him concerning his movements, searched his belongings, photographed his identity document and placed him in a police vehicle. • During his detention, police personnel attempted to compel him to delete recordings made on his mobile phone. • The incident was not connected with Mr. Daniyal's participation in any demonstration. He was a journalist travelling to cover the protest. [The News Minute](#). • True copy of the first-person account published by Mr. Shoaib Daniyal on Scroll, along with link <https://scroll.in/article/1096303/what-delhi-police-told-scrolls-shoaib-daniyal-while-detaining-him-21-km->

[away-from-jantar-mantar](#), is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-19 (pgs. 126 to 130).**

22. **10.10.2026:** DETENTION OF JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATED WITH NEWSLAUNDRY: Mr. Anmol Pritam, together with other journalists associated with Newslaundry, was detained notwithstanding the display of press identification. • The contemporaneous account records interference with the journalists' mobile phones and their removal to Chhatrasal Stadium. • Mr. Pritam subsequently published a video recording the circumstances of the detention. [The News Minute](#). True copy of the post made by Mr. Anmol Pritam on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying video and link <https://x.com/anmolpritamND/status/2109209511856644250>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-20 (pgs. 131 to 131).**

23. **10.10.2026:** DETENTION OF NEHA BORA; PROTESTERS SURROUND POLICE VEHICLE: During the demonstrations on 10.10.2026, Ms. Neha Bora was reportedly detained by police personnel. • Contemporaneous material records demonstrators gathering around a police vehicle following the detention and attempting to prevent its departure. • True copy of the post dated 10.10.2026 made by Mr. Hemant Rajaura on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying video and link <https://x.com/hemantrajora/status/2108944091572502921>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-21 (pgs. 132 to 132).**

24. **10.10.2026** FURTHER CONTEMPORANEOUS RECORD OF DETENTIONS: The detentions and police action during the demonstrations were recorded and circulated contemporaneously by journalists, independent media organisations and persons present at the protest sites. • The Petitioner relies upon the said contemporaneous posts as additional material concerning the police response on 10.10.2026, subject to verification of the particular acts depicted against the accompanying recordings and the Respondents' records. • True copy of the post dated 10.10.2026 made by Scroll.in on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying material and link https://x.com/scroll_in/status/2108855126165455295, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-22 (pgs. 133 to 133)**. True copy of the post dated 10.10.2026 made on the X account @allthingzabsurd, along with screenshots of the accompanying material and link <https://x.com/allthingzabsurd/status/210891526443177596> 5, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-23 (pgs. 134 to 134)**.

25. **11.10.2026:** SUPREME COURT DIRECTS PROTECTION AGAINST UNLAWFUL DETENTION AND OBSTRUCTION OF JOURNALISTS: On 11.10.2026, this Hon'ble Court considered Contempt Petition (Civil) Diary No. 63801/2026 concerning alleged non-compliance with the order dated 09.10.2026, together with W.P.(CrI.) Diary No. 63858/2026 concerning allegations of illegal detention. • The Court was informed of restrictions upon public movement, allegations of detention extending beyond the

area covered by Section 163 BNSS, and interference with persons discharging professional duties. • The learned Solicitor General, on instructions, assured this Hon'ble Court that lawyers, journalists and other professionals would not be impeded in the discharge of their professional duties. • Taking note of the said assurance, this Hon'ble Court directed in paragraph 16(f): *“Lawyers, journalists and other professionals shall not be hindered in discharge of their professional duties in any manner whatsoever.”* • The Court also issued directions concerning restrictions upon movement, unlawful detention and the continuing application of the orders previously passed. • True copy of the order dated 11.10.2026 passed by this Hon'ble Court in Contempt Petition (Civil) Diary No. 63801/2026 and connected matters is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-24 (pgs.135 to 145).**

26. **11.10.2026: OBSTRUCTION WHILE REPORTING AT R.K. ASHRAM MARG:** Notwithstanding the aforesaid direction, journalists continued to report obstruction and detention while covering the demonstrations. At R.K. Ashram Marg, journalists questioning Delhi Police concerning the detention of another journalist were themselves stopped. Mr. Sreenivasan Jain recorded that at least six journalists had been shoved into a police vehicle. The video records a police officer telling Mr. Jain, while he was questioning the police, that it was *“not the right time to ask anything”*. Mr. Jain subsequently recorded that at least seven journalists had been detained at the location. [Scroll.in](#)

• True copy of the contemporaneous post made by Mr.

Sreenivasan Jain on X at approximately 15:33 hrs, along with screenshots of the accompanying video, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-25 (pgs. 146 to 146)**.

- True copy of the subsequent post dated 11.10.2026 made by Mr. Sreenivasan Jain on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying material and link <https://x.com/sreenivasanjain/status/2109230114454319606>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-26 (pgs. 147 to 147)**.

27. **11.10.2026: MANHANDLING AND DETENTION OF JOURNALISTS AT CONNAUGHT PLACE:** At Connaught Place, journalists Vedanta Agarwal and Sara Khan of Peek TV were reportedly dragged and detained while covering the detention of demonstrators, notwithstanding their display of press identification. • Independent journalist M. Rajshekhar was separately held while photographing students being detained. • Journalists associated with Reporter TV, 24 News and Asianet News were also reportedly detained and taken away in police vehicles before being released. • The incidents involved the physical removal of journalists from the locations at which they were documenting police action. [Scroll.in](https://scroll.in) • True copy of the report published by Scroll.in concerning the detention and manhandling of journalists on 11.10.2026, along with link <https://scroll.in/latest/1096321/cec-protests-at-least-nine-journalists-detained-while-covering-demonstrations-in-delhi>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-27 (pgs. 148 to 160)**.

28. **11.10.2026** INDIAN EXPRESS JOURNALISTS TAKEN TO CHHATRASAL STADIUM: Shashwat, Siya and Vijay of *The Indian Express Hindi* were detained by Delhi Police while reporting from Connaught Place. • Notwithstanding the display of press identification, they were placed in a police vehicle and taken approximately twelve kilometres away to Chhatrasal Stadium, where they were subsequently released after approximately forty-five minutes. • The report records no specific legal provision or individual reason disclosed by the police for their detention. [The Indian Express](#). True copy of the report published by *The Indian Express* concerning the detention of Shashwat, Siya and Vijay, along with link <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/cjp-protest-in-delhi-indian-express-journalists-detained-connaught-place-chhatrasal-stadium-supreme-court-section-163-bnss-10916688/>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-28 (pgs. 161 to 163)**.

29. **11.10.2026:** NIDHI SURESH DETAINED; RELEASE PERMITTED ONLY IN THE EVENING: Ms. Nidhi Suresh of *The News Minute* was reportedly detained at approximately 15:00 hrs and taken away in a police vehicle. • At 19:08 hrs, Ms. Dhanya Rajendran recorded that police personnel had informed the detained women at approximately 18:30 hrs that they could leave. • The detention prevented Ms. Suresh from continuing to report from the location at which she had been covering the demonstrations. • True copy of the post dated 11.10.2026 made by Ms. Dhanya Rajendran on X concerning the detention of Ms. Nidhi Suresh, along with link

<https://x.com/dhanyarajendran/status/21092775844629425>

93, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-29 (pgs. 164 to 165)**.

30. **11.10.2026: REPORTER OF THE HINDU PLACED IN POLICE BUS**: A reporter associated with *The Hindu* was also detained at Connaught Place and placed in a police bus. • At approximately 18:19 hrs, Ms. Hemani Bhandari recorded that the reporter was released only after police personnel recognised that she was a journalist with *The Hindu*, and before the bus departed. • The incident was subsequently reported alongside other instances in which journalists were detained notwithstanding the display of press identification. • True copy of the post dated 11.10.2026 made by Ms. Hemani Bhandari on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying video, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-30 (pgs. 166 to 167)**.

31. **11.10.2026: CARAVAN JOURNALIST ASSAULTED BY POLICE PERSONNEL**: At approximately 18:00 hrs on 11.10.2026, Mr. Ryan Thomas, Assistant Multimedia Producer of *The Caravan*, was reportedly assaulted and detained by Delhi Police personnel while covering the demonstrations near Janpath Road. • According to the account published by *The Caravan*, police personnel struck Mr. Thomas while he was recording the detention of a demonstrator and attempted to take his recording equipment and compel deletion of the footage. • The report identifies Assistant Sub-Inspector Kapil Kumar among the officers concerned. • Mr. Thomas subsequently attended Ram

Manohar Lohia Hospital for medical examination. The published account also records a dispute concerning the recording of the cause of his injuries in the medico-legal documentation. • The incident occurred after this Hon'ble Court had expressly directed that journalists shall not be hindered in the discharge of their professional duties. [Caravan](#). • True copy of the report published by *The Caravan* on 12.10.2026 concerning the alleged assault and detention of Mr. Ryan Thomas on 11.10.2026, along with link <https://caravanmagazine.in/news/delhi-police-beats-caravan-journalist-sir-protests>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-31 (pgs. 168 to 177)**.

32. 11.10.2026: ASSAULT AND DETENTION OF MP JOHN BRITTAS: CPI(M) Rajya Sabha Member Mr. John Brittas was detained during demonstrations in central Delhi. • Mr. Brittas alleged that police personnel grabbed him by the neck, forcibly placed him in a police vehicle, pinned him against a seat and choked him. • A subsequently circulated video reportedly records him lying on the steps of a police bus in visible distress. • The allegations concern the manner in which force was used during the detention of a person participating in the demonstrations. [The Indian Express](#). • True copy of the report published by *The Indian Express* concerning the alleged assault upon Mr. John Brittas, along with link <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/john-brittas-detained-delhi-protest-election-commission-gyanesh-kumar-10917186/>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-32 (pgs. 178 to 182)**.

33. **11.10.2026: WOMEN ACTIVISTS MANHANDLED AND DETAINED AFTER SUNSET**: Approximately twenty-two women activists associated with the Students' Federation of India were reportedly detained during a demonstration at Connaught Place. • According to the contemporaneous report, women demonstrators were forcibly removed and placed inside a police vehicle after sunset. • Allegations were made that women were slapped or manhandled during the detention and that the vehicle in which they were subsequently held lacked adequate lighting and the presence of women police personnel. • The incident raises questions concerning the use of force and the procedural safeguards applicable to the detention of women. • True copy of the report titled "Women Activists Manhandled, Detained After Sunset, Carried Away in Bus Without Women Cops, Say SFI" published by *The Wire*, along with link <https://thewire.in/government/women-activists-manhandled-detained-after-sunset-carried-away-in-bus-without-women-cops-say-sfi>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-33 (pgs. 183 to 186)**.

34. **11.10.2026: FURTHER CONTEMPORANEOUS RECORDINGS OF POLICE ACTION**: Further videos and contemporaneous posts concerning the demonstrations and police action were published on 11.10.2026. • The Petitioner relies upon the said recordings as contemporaneous material concerning the events in Delhi, subject to their contents being matched with the particular incident and the relevant police records. • True copy of the post dated 11.10.2026 made on the X account @dekoderai,

along with screenshots of the accompanying material and link <https://x.com/dekoderai/status/2109250512470323539>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-34 (pgs. 187 to 187)**. • True copy of the post dated 11.10.2026 made on the X account @mr_mayank, along with screenshots of the accompanying material and link https://x.com/mr_mayank/status/2109253511032819866, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-35 (pgs. 188 to 188)**. • True copy of the post dated 11.10.2026 made on the X account @pragyalive, along with screenshots of the accompanying material and link <https://x.com/pragyalive/status/2109342268511653939>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-36 (pgs. 189 to 189)**.

35. **11.10.2026: DELHI POLICE'S EXPLANATION CONCERNING DETENTION OF JOURNALISTS:**

Contemporaneous reports recorded that journalists were detained at different locations in Delhi notwithstanding the display of press identification. • Delhi Police reportedly attributed certain detentions to journalists working “*too close*” to protesters or to “*confusion*” concerning their professional identity. • The explanation did not deny that the persons concerned were journalists engaged in reporting. • The actual circumstances of each detention, including the legal provision invoked and the reasons for the use of force or removal from reporting locations, remain matters requiring verification from the police records. • True copy of the report published by *The Hindu* concerning the detention of journalists and the explanation attributed to Delhi Police,

along with link
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/anti-cec-protests-continue-journalists-detained-despite-sc-order-rahul-gandhi-announces-march-to-supreme-court-as-delhi-braces-for-fresh-curbs/article71572486.ece>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-37 (pgs. 190 to 191)**.

36. **11.10.2026:** CONTEMPORANEOUS RECORD OF REPEATED DETENTIONS OF JOURNALISTS: • At approximately 20:01 hrs, SFLC.in stated that it had recorded fifty instances of journalists being detained while reporting the demonstrations. • The Petitioner relies upon the statement as contemporaneous material concerning repeated detentions of journalists. The statement is not relied upon as proof that all fifty incidents occurred after the order dated 11.10.2026. • The actual number of detentions, their duration, the location of detention and the identity of the police personnel involved would be ascertainable from the Respondents' deployment, detention and vehicle records. • True copy of the post dated 11.10.2026 made by SFLC.in on X, along with link <https://x.com/SFLCin/status/2109290733425299881>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-38 (pgs. 192)**.

37. **11.10.2026:** DE-NOTIFICATION OF JANTAR MANTAR AS A DESIGNATED PROTEST SITE: Delhi Police issued a Standing Order dated 11.10.2026 de-notifying Jantar Mantar as a designated site for demonstrations. The decision identified Ramlila Ground,

Burari Ground and CBD Ground as alternative locations for public demonstrations. • The decision was stated to have been taken pursuant to recommendations made by a committee constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs and in partial modification of the earlier Standing Order dated 28.04.2022. • The new arrangements were reported publicly on 12.10.2026. The revised standard operating procedures governing permissions and demonstrations at the alternative venues were stated to be issued separately. [The Indian Express](#). True copy of the report published by *The Indian Express* on 12.10.2026 concerning the Standing Order dated 11.10.2026 de-notifying Jantar Mantar as a designated protest venue, along with link <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/delhis-jantar-mantar-no-longer-designated-protest-site-police-ramlila-maidan-two-other-grounds-delhi-police-congress-march-cjp-10917797/>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-39 (pgs. 193 to 195)**.

38. **12.10.2026: CONTINUED RESTRICTIONS UPON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND MOVEMENT**: Further restrictions upon public transportation and vehicular movement were imposed in Delhi in anticipation of renewed demonstrations. • Contemporaneous reporting records the closure of six Metro stations and restrictions upon traffic movement in central Delhi. • The restrictions followed the orders dated 09.10.2026 and 11.10.2026 of this Hon'ble Court concerning essential public transportation, public movement and the exercise of police powers during demonstrations. [Reuters](#). True copy of the report dated

12.10.2026 published by Reuters concerning the restrictions upon Metro services and traffic movement, along with link <https://www.reuters.com/world/india/delhi-shuts-metro-stations-restricts-traffic-ahead-new-protest-against-election-2026-10-12/>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-40 (pgs. 196 to 198)**.

39. **12.10.2026: FURTHER DOCUMENTATION OF THE DETENTION OF PEEK TV JOURNALISTS:** Peek TV published further material concerning the treatment of its journalists during the demonstrations. The Petitioner relies upon the post as subsequent documentation of the incidents involving journalists covering the protests, subject to verification of the particular incident and the persons depicted. • True copy of the post dated 12.10.2026 made by Peek TV on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying material and link https://x.com/peektv_in/status/2109531792814526667, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-41 (pgs. 199 to 200)**.

40. **12.10.2026: CONTINUING PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT** Contempt Petition (Civil) Diary No. 63801/2026, W.P.(Crl.) Diary No. 63858/2026 and the connected proceedings stand listed for further consideration on 13.10.2026. • The compliance report directed pursuant to the order dated 09.10.2026 is also due. • Notwithstanding the aforesaid proceedings and the directions issued by this Hon'ble Court, the events commencing on 02.10.2026 disclose continuing allegations

concerning the use of prohibitory powers, preventive detentions, physical force, interference with journalists, restrictions upon essential services and the treatment of persons participating in public demonstrations.

QUESTIONS OF LAW:

41. The present Writ petition raises substantial constitutional questions, including:

- (i) Whether the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution includes the freedom of the press and the right of journalists to gather, receive, verify, document and disseminate information concerning matters of public importance?
- (ii) Whether detention, forcible removal, physical assault, dragging, manhandling, intimidation or retaliatory action against journalists engaged in bona fide reporting violates Articles 14, 19(1)(a), 19(1)(d) and 21 of the Constitution?
- (iii) Whether State action that prevents journalists from accessing places where matters of public significance are unfolding, impermissibly burdens not only press freedom but also the public's constitutional right to receive information and the right to know?
- (iv) Whether restrictions imposed upon journalists in the course of reporting public assemblies, protests and governmental action are required to

satisfy the constitutional standards of legality, necessity and proportionality?

- (v) Whether the reported detention and obstruction of journalists notwithstanding the direction of this Hon'ble Court dated 11.10.2026 and the assurance recorded therein that, "*lawyers, journalists and other professionals shall not be hindered in discharge of their professional duties in any manner whatsoever*" is violative of Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution?
- (vi) Whether interference with journalists while covering matters of public importance has a chilling effect upon independent reporting and democratic accountability, thereby impairing the institutional functioning of the press?
- (vii) Whether the use of force against identifiable journalists, including after production of press credentials or assertion of professional status, can ever be sustained without a specific, recorded and individualised necessity satisfying legality, necessity and proportionality?
- (viii) Whether the failure to ensure visible identification of officers, preserve contemporaneous recordings, maintain accurate detention records and disclose the chain of command renders allegations of police excess incapable of effective investigation and thereby compounds the violation of Articles 14, 19 and 21?

Grounds:

A. Because the actions complained of violate Articles 19(1)(a), 14 and 21 of the Constitution and strike at the core of the constitutional guarantee of a free press. Beginning with *Romesh Thappar v. State of Madras* and *Brij Bhushan v. State of Delhi*, and continuing through *Sakal Papers, Bennett Coleman, Indian Express Newspapers, Cricket Association of Bengal, Anuradha Bhasin* and *Kaushal Kishor*, this Hon'ble Court has consistently recognised that freedom of the press is indispensable to constitutional democracy and that citizens possess a corresponding right to receive information concerning matters of public importance.

B. Because the constitutional protection afforded to the press extends not merely to publication but to the antecedent processes of newsgathering, observation, documentation and dissemination of information. A journalist cannot report what a journalist is prevented from witnessing. The detention, obstruction and removal of journalists while engaged in bona fide reporting activities therefore directly burden Article 19(1)(a) and cannot be justified except in accordance with the strict requirements of legality, necessity and proportionality.

C. Because the impugned actions impair not merely the rights of individual journalists but the public's constitutionally protected right to know. Journalists perform a constitutionally significant function as independent observers of public affairs and as a conduit between events occurring on the ground and citizens throughout the country.

Interference with journalists reporting events of national importance therefore restricts the flow of information to the public and undermines democratic accountability.

B. Because constitutional protection extends to the entire journalistic process: access, observation, questioning, recording, verification, preservation and dissemination. The State cannot be permitted to suppress scrutiny by physically removing, assaulting or confining the person who creates the contemporaneous record for no other reason than the person simply being present to witness the event. Any restriction must be sourced in law, directed to a legitimate aim, necessary in the circumstances and proportionate in means and effect.

C. Because violence against journalists is a form of censorship by force. A baton, grip, shove, physically carrying away by several personnel, forced entry into a police vehicle, or threat of or actual detention may suppress reporting as effectively as a formal prohibition. When deployed against persons visibly engaged in newsgathering, such force attacks both bodily integrity under Article 21 and the institutional freedom of the press under Article 19(1)(a). The injury extends to every citizen denied an independent account of events occurring in public.

D. Because the reported detentions, removals and acts of force lacked any individualised legal basis. Journalists were restrained at multiple locations, including places removed from the proposed assembly, and in circumstances where their professional status was asserted or objectively

apparent. The indiscriminate treatment of bona fide observer and participant alike is manifestly arbitrary, bears no rational nexus to public order and cannot survive constitutional scrutiny under Articles 14, 19 and 21.

E. Because this Hon'ble Court's direction dated 11.10.2026 that journalists shall not be hindered in any manner whatsoever was intended to operate on the ground, not merely in official assurances. Continued detention, dragging, manhandling or obstruction after that direction demonstrates the inadequacy of general instructions unsupported by a field protocol, supervisory responsibility, preservation of evidence and immediate remedies. The freedom of the press cannot depend upon whether an individual officer arbitrarily chooses to honour a press card.

F. Because the impugned practice rests on an unconstitutional conflation of proximity with participation. A journalist must often stand close enough to see, hear and record. Presence near protesters, possession of recording equipment, asking questions or documenting a detention does not convert an observer into a participant. To treat those acts as grounds for force or confinement immunises police conduct from scrutiny and creates a powerful chilling effect upon all reporting of protests and crowd-control operations.

I. Because the Petitioner craves leave to urge such other grounds as may be necessary at the time of hearing.

G. Because the existing proceedings concerning transport restrictions, habeas corpus and contempt do not comprehensively determine the standards governing police

interaction with journalists or supply forward-looking safeguards against repetition. This Petition seeks distinct declaratory, preventive and remedial relief concerning press access, use of force, officer identification, evidence preservation, disclosure, independent inquiry and command accountability.

H. Because allegations of journalists being dragged, manhandled, injured, detained or forcibly transported warrant scrutiny through an independent process operating outside the immediate chain of command of the officers concerned. An internal account cannot satisfactorily determine who authorised the action, which officers participated therein, what warnings or directions were issued, what legal basis, if any, was recorded, where the detained journalists were taken, whether medical assistance was provided, and whether any recordings, notes, devices, footage or journalistic equipment were interfered with. Effective constitutional redress requires the preservation of evidence, time-bound identification of responsible personnel, disclosure of the relevant chain of command, and protection against retaliation directed at journalists, witnesses, complainants or media organisations.

Pending hearing and final disposal of the present Writ Petition, this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to:

a. Direct the Respondents to ensure that journalists and media professionals are not obstructed, detained, removed or otherwise prevented from carrying out their bona fide journalistic activities;

- a. Direct the Respondents forthwith to ensure that no journalist or media worker engaged in bona fide newsgathering is assaulted, manhandled, threatened, detained, transported, removed or obstructed except pursuant to a specific authority of law, recorded basis and proportionate necessity;
- b. Direct immediate preservation, sealing and production of all CCTV footage, body-worn camera recordings, police videography, wireless communications, PCR call logs, duty rosters, deployment charts, vehicle movement logs, detention registers, arrest memos, medical records and complaint records concerning incidents involving journalists from 10.10.2026 onwards;
- c. Direct the Respondents to disclose, location-wise and officer-wise, all journalists and media workers detained, removed, transported, injured or otherwise prevented from reporting, the legal basis asserted in each case, the officers responsible, the place and period of custody, and whether medical examination or assistance was provided;
- d. Direct that journalists taken into custody or removed from a reporting location be permitted immediate access to counsel and their organisation, and that no journalistic equipment, footage or data be seized, searched, deleted, damaged or compelled to be disclosed except strictly in accordance with law; and
- d. Pass such further interim orders as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper.

PRAYER

In view of the foregoing facts and circumstances, it is respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to:

- a. Issue an appropriate writ, order or direction declaring that arbitrary detention, forcible removal, intimidation, assault, dragging, manhandling, injury or other use of force against journalists in the discharge of professional duties violates Articles 14, 19(1)(a), 19(1)(d) and 21 of the Constitution and impermissibly burdens the public's right to know;
- b. Direct strict and demonstrable compliance with direction at Para 16(f) of the order dated 11.10.2026, including preservation and disclosure of all records relating to incidents involving journalists from 10.10.2026 onwards, identification of the officers and supervisory chain involved, and production of CCTV, body-worn camera recordings, police videography, wireless communications, duty rosters, vehicle logs, detention records and medical records;
- c. Constitute, or direct the constitution of, an independent and time-bound mechanism to inquire into allegations of detention, physical violence, injury, coercive removal and obstruction of journalists, identify individual and command responsibility, recommend disciplinary or other action in accordance with law, and determine appropriate compensation and remedial measures;
- d. Frame, or direct the framing of, binding guidelines governing police interaction with journalists during protests, public assemblies and crowd-control operations, including visible officer identification, recognition of press credentials

without making accreditation the sole test of journalistic status, use-of-force thresholds, recording of reasons, immediate access to counsel and editorial organisations, medical assistance, protection of equipment and data, and preservation of contemporaneous evidence; and

e. Pass such other order or orders as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit to secure press freedom, bodily safety, accountability of public authorities, democratic scrutiny and the effective protection of fundamental rights.

AND FOR THIS ACT OF KINDNESS THE PETITIONER AS DUTY BOUND SHALL EVER PRAY

Place: New Delhi
Date: 12.10.2026

Filed By:

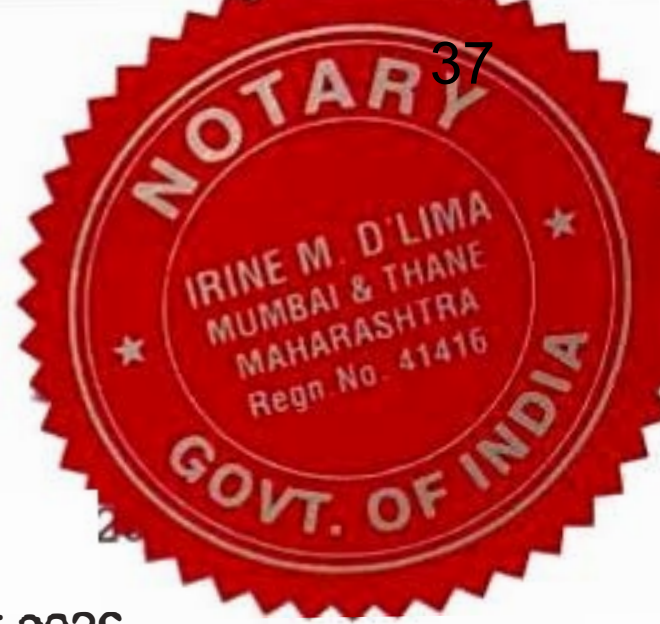


AARTHI RAJAN

Advocate or the Petitioner
CODE 2547

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL WRIT JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) DIARY NO. 63560 OF 2026



IN THE MATTER OF:

FREE SPEECH COLLECTIVE

...PETITIONER

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

...RESPONDENTS

AFFIDAVIT

I, Geeta Seshu, D/o V. R. Seshu, aged 62 years, R/o 42/52, VARUN, CARTER RD BANDRA W, the authorised representative of the Petitioner in the above-mentioned matter, do hereby solemnly affirm, and state as follows:



1. That I am the Petitioner in the above-mentioned matter and am fully conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case and as such I am competent to swear this affidavit.
2. That I have gone through the contents of the Writ Petition [paras 1 to 41 and pages 1 -37], Synopsis and List of Dates [B - L] and Interlocutory Applications and have understood the same and say that they are true and correct to my knowledge and belief. I say that the same has been drafted on my instructions.
3. That the Annexures accompanying Contempt Petition are true copies of their respective originals.

Geeta Seshu
DEPONENT

VERIFICATION:

I, the above-named Deponent, do hereby verify and state that the contents of the above affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and belief, no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Verified by me at Mumbai on 12th October 2026

S.



Geeta Seshu
DEPONENT
BEFORE ME
Irine M. D'Lima
IRINE M. D'LIMA
ADVOCATE & NOTARY
203, Dunhill Dome, St. John Road
Bandra (W), Mumbai - 400 050
Regn. No. 41416

NOTED & REGISTERED
Page No. 41 CPEA - 15
Sr. No. 1225 Date 2 OCT 2026

ITEM NOS.25 + 26 + 29 + 31 COURT NO.1

SECTION PIL-W

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGSWrit Petition(s) (Criminal) No(s). 280/2026

SHAILENDRA MANI TRIPATHI

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

WITH

W.P.(Cr1.) No. 279/2026 (X)

(IA No. 213827/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 215310/2026 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION and IA No. 216101/2026 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT)

W.P.(Cr1.) No. 286/2026 (PIL-W)

W.P.(Cr1.) No. 282/2026 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 215863/2026 - EX-PARTE AD-INTERIM RELIEF)

W.P.(Cr1.) No. 283/2026 (PIL-W)

W.P.(C) No. 917/2026 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 217509/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS)

W.P.(C) No. 958/2026 (PIL-W)

ITEM NO. 26

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 973/2026

ITEM NO. 29

Writ Petition(s) (Criminal) No(s). 324/2026

(IA No. 241573/2026 - APPLICATION FOR TAGGING/DETAGGING, IA No. 241569/2026 - EX-PARTE AD-INTERIM RELIEF and IA No. 241576/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

ITEM NO. 31

Transfer Petition(s) (Criminal) No(s). 836/2026

Date : 18-08-2026 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE V. MOHANA

Signature valid
Digitally signed by
ANIL K. MAHESWARA
Date: 2025.08.20
16:15:13 +05'30
Reason:For Petitioner(s) : Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Gaurav Kumar, Adv.

Mr. Vishal Sinha, Adv.
 Mr. Pradeep Kumar Yadav, Adv.
 Mr. Shailendra Mani Tripathi, Adv.
 Mr. Sanjiv Misra, Adv.
 Mr. Siddharth Venugopal, Adv.
 Mr. Naman Shrestha, Adv.
 Ms. Pooja Shilpkar, Adv.
 Mr. Shourya Dasgupta, Adv.
 Mr. Smruthi Gangadharaiiah, Adv.
 Mr. Priyendu Raghav Mishra, Adv.
 Mr. Mukesh Kumar, Adv.
 Mr. Himanshu Meena, Adv.
 Mr. Vishal Kumar, Adv.
 Mr. Praveen Kumar Mishra, Adv.
 Mr. Abhishek Jaiswal, Adv.
 Mr. Chand Qureshi, AOR
 Mr. Mujahid Ahmad, Adv.
 Mr. Davinder Pal Kaur, Adv.

Mr. Narendra Mishra, Adv.
 Ms. Aakanksha Tiwari, Adv.
 Ms. Preeti Chauhan, Adv.
 Mrs. Priyanka Dwivedi, Adv.
 Mr. Keshav Choudhary, Adv.
 Mr. Neeraj Shrivastava, Adv.
 Mr. Tilak Raj Passi, Adv.
 Ms. Nazish Fatima, Adv.
 Mrs. Maneesha Pathak, Adv.
 Mrs. Monika, Adv.
 Mr. Shiv Sagar Tiwari, AOR

Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Shoeb Alam, Sr. Adv.
 Ms. Fauzia Shakil, Adv.
 Mr. Amit Bhandari, Adv.
 Mr. Ujjwal Singh, AOR
 Ms. Nazmeen Ahmed, Adv.
 Mr. Khalid Ali, Adv.
 Mr. Aanand Kumar Vashistha, Adv.

Mr. Shyam Divan, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Daksh Kadian, Adv.
 Ms. Trisha Chandran, AOR
 Mr. Udayaditya Banerjee, Adv., Adv.
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 Mr. Tenzing Namgyal, Adv.
 Ms. Mallika Agarwal, Adv.
 Mr. Harsh Srivastava, Adv.
 Mr. Sreekar Aechuri, Adv.
 Ms. Smruthi Gangadharaiiah, Adv.
 Mr. Arpith Jacob Varaprasad, Adv.
 Mr. Shaishir Divatia, Adv.
 Ms. Aadya Khanna, Adv.

Mr. Abhishek Singh, Adv.
 Mr. Mridul Godha, Adv.
 Ms. Ankita Gupta, Adv.
 Mr. Rithwik Narayanan, Adv.
 Ms. Sarah Ayreen Mir, Adv.
 Mr. Gladson Rodrigues, Adv.

Dr. Syed Rizwan Ahmed, Adv.
 Mr. Pulkit Agarwal, Adv.
 Mr. Anubhav Lamba, Adv.
 Mr. Rajat Kumar, Adv.
 Mr. Sudhanshu Kumar, Adv.
 Mr. Shubham Singh, Adv.
 Mr. Ravi Dev Dwivedi, Adv.
 Mr. Utkarsh Singh, Adv.
 Md. Anas Chaudhary, Adv.
 Mr. Zahid Ali, Adv.
 Mr. Pulkit Agarwal, AOR

Ms. Vrinda Grover, Adv.
 Ms. Devika Tulsiani, Adv.
 Mr. Soutik Banerjee, AOR

Mr. N. Hariharan, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Adv.
 Ms. Ashima Mandla, AOR
 Mr. Nipun Saxena, Adv.
 Ms. Mandakini Singh, Adv.
 Mr. Arjan Singh Mandla, Adv.
 Mr. Siddharth Venugopal, Adv.
 Mr. Dev Nagar, Adv.
 Ms. Aadya Pandey, Adv.
 Ms. Deepali Dabas, Adv.
 Ms. Vanshika Tewari, Adv.
 Mr. B.D. Rao Kundan, Adv.
 Mr. Amaan Shreyas, Adv.
 Ms. Mannat Tipnis, Adv.
 Mr. Siddharth S Yadav, Adv.
 Mr. Aman Akhtar, Adv.

in Item 26

Dr. Menaka Guruswamy, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Subhash Chandran K.r, AOR
 Mr. Anirudh K.p, Adv.
 Ms. Shaswati Parhi, Adv.
 Ms. Anmol Gupta, Adv.
 Ms. Bhumika Yadav, Adv.
 Ms. Anuka Bachawat, Adv.
 Mr. Ribhav Pande, Adv.
 Mr. Madhav Aggarwal, Adv.

in Item 29

Ms. Tanushree Bhalla, Adv.
 Mr. Mohsin Alam, Adv.
 Mr. Sachin Hitkari, AOR

in Item 31

Mr. N. Hariharan, Sr. Adv.
 Ms. Ashima Mandla, AOR
 Ms. Mandakini Singh, Adv.
 Mr. Arjan Singh Mandla, Adv.
 Mr. Amaan Shreyas, Adv.
 Ms. Mannat Tipnis, Adv.
 Mr. Siddharth S Yadav, Adv.
 Mr. Aman Akhtar, Adv.

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 Mr. Annam Venkatesh, Adv.
 Ms. Sairica Raju, Adv.
 Ms. Aastha Singh, Adv.
 Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, AOR

Mr. S. D. Sanjay, Advocate General
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Mr. Alok Sangwan, Sr. A.A.G.
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 Mr. Sumit Kumar Sharma, Adv.
 Mr. Rajat Sangwan, Adv.
 Mr. Vaibhav Yadav, Adv.
 Mr. Harsh Mehla, Adv.
 Mr. Asit Gupta, Adv.
 Mr. Mahipal Gautam, Adv.

Mr. Sanchit Garga, AOR
 Mr. Kunal Rana, Adv.
 Mr. Shashwat Jaiswal, Adv.
 Ms. Diksha Arora, Adv.

Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv.

Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AOR
 Mr. Shrirang B. Varma, Adv.
 Mr. Aditya Krishna, Adv.
 Ms. Sushmita Pandey, Adv.
 Ms. Arunima Das, Adv.
 Mr. Ashwin Arun Hirulkar, Adv.
 Ms. Kunika Bansal, Adv.

Ms. Devina Sehgal, AOR
 Mr. Yatharth Kansal, Adv.
 Mr. Srikanth Varma Mudunuru, Adv.

Mr. Nishant Awana, AOR
 Ms. Rini Badoni, Adv.
 Mr. Suraj Kundu, Adv.
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Mr. Bhuvan Kapoor, Adv.
 Mr. Varun Chugh, Adv.
 Mr. Yogesh Vats, Adv.
 Mr. Shreekant Neelappa Terdal, AOR

Mr. Aravindh S., AOR
 Mr. Aadithya Aravindh, Adv.

Mr. Sadashiv, AOR
 Mr. Sunil Kumar, Adv.
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 Mr. Mohd Arafat Ahmad, Adv.
 Mr. Mohd Shafat Ahamad, Adv.
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 Mr. Ashish Kumar Pandey, Adv.
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 Mr. Gupta Ganesh Subhash, Adv.
 Ms. Neha Gupta, Adv.
 Ms. Mumtaz Jawed Shaikh, Adv.

Mr. Sridhar Potaraju, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Venkata Raghuvamsy D., AOR
 Ms. Chamundeswari P, Adv.
 Ms. Yashika Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Amit Rawal, Sr. Adv.
 Ms. Riahika, Adv.
 Mr. Kunal Mittal, Adv.
 Ms. Anindita Mitra, AOR

Ms. Ruchi Kohli, Sr. Adv.
 Ms. Srishti Mishra, AOR

Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Prashant Bhushan, Adv.
 Ms. Neha Rathi, AOR
 Mr. Omar Hoda, Adv.
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 Mr. Pratul, Adv.
 Mr. Parimal Wagh, Adv.

Mr. Shadan Farasat, Sr. Adv.
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 Mr. Harshit Anand, Adv.

Applicant-in-person, AOR

Mr. Vivek Sharma, AOR
 Mr. Vijay Kumar Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Rahul Gupta, AOR
 Mr. Shiyas K.R., Adv.
 Mr. Angad Gautam, Adv.
 Mr. Manik Gupta, Adv.

Mr. Anilendra Pandey, AOR
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Mr. Sameer Abhyankar, AOR
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 Ms. Arushi Chopra, Adv.

Mr. Ajay Kumar Misra, AG
 Mr. Sharan Dev Singh Thakur, AAG
 Ms. Ruchira Goel, AOR

Mr. Harmeet Singh Ruprah, AOR
 Mr. Kanishk Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Aljo K. Joseph, AOR
 Mr. Sashwat Mishra, Adv.

Mr. Kartikeya Rastogi, DAG
 Ms. Inderdeep Kaur Raina, Adv.

in Item 29

Ms. Nupur Kumar, AOR

For Intervenor: Mr. Amit Rawal, Sr. Adv.
 Ms. Rishika, Adv.
 Mr. Kunal Mittal, Adv.
 Ms. Anindita Mitra, AOR

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

1. The instant batch of writ petitions brings to the fore, *inter alia*, the alleged excessive and disproportionate use of force by the police, paramilitary forces, and other security personnel against peaceful protestors assembled at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi, and at various other locations across the country.
2. As already noticed in our earlier order dated 28.07.2026, the Petitioners have, in their petitions and the affidavits filed subsequently, broadly alleged the following instances, each illustrative of the indiscriminate and excessive use of force resorted to by the police and other security personnel under the guise of crowd control:
 - i. the deployment of pellet guns against peaceful protestors, occasioning grievous and, in several instances, irreversible bodily injury;
 - ii. acts of violence perpetrated by police officials in plain clothes, thereby evading identification and accountability while inflicting harm upon the protestors;
 - iii. the use of electric batons upon protestors, resulting in injuries of a nature disproportionate to any legitimate

exercise of crowd-control measures;

- iv. the excessive and disproportionate use of force through indiscriminate lathi charges and the deployment of tear gas, often without adequate warning or provocation;
 - v. threats held out by the police to fabricate evidence and to plant incriminating material upon protestors, with the object of intimidating and deterring them from the exercise of their constitutional right to peaceful assembly and dissent; and
 - vi. acts of violence perpetrated against women and children present at such assemblies, marked by a particular callousness towards their safety and dignity.
3. In turn, it was contended by the Respondents that certain anti-social elements with serious criminal antecedents, masquerading as aggrieved students, indulged in acts of violence during the course of the said protests, resulting in violent clashes with the police, in consequence whereof the police forces have sustained grievous injuries.
4. Thus, when the matter was first taken up on 28.07.2026, this Court issued certain interim directions to the NCT of Delhi and other States regarding the coercive measures taken against protesting students. In this regard, all States and investigating authorities were directed to refrain from proceeding with such measures and to forthwith release any

children below the age of 18 years who may have been detained or arrested in connection therewith. It was, however, clarified that such protection would not extend to those with criminal antecedents, namely those accused of 'grave and heinous offences'.

5. In the same breath, this Court also directed the Respondents, as well as the police authorities, to ensure that the personal information and digital data of the protestors, collected in the course of the said protests, be preserved and not disclosed or published in the public domain.

THE NEED FOR CONSTITUTING AN INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE

6. Having regard to the allegations levelled by the Petitioners as well as the vehement contentions advanced by the Respondents, and taking into consideration the demands made by the Petitioners, this Court viewed that a *prima face* case for an independent and impartial investigation and consequentially the need to constitute a High-Powered Enquiry Committee (HPEC) for the said purpose was made out. The relevant portion of the order dated 28.07.2026, thus, reads as follows:

"4. Be that as it may, the allegations made by the petitioners, prima facie, establish a compelling case for an independent and impartial investigation into the incidents of violence. Such an investigation will adequately address the allegations presented by the family members of the police personnel, as well as the issues raised by the learned Solicitor General of India."

7. When the matter came up for hearing on 18.08.2026, this Court

clearly communicated its intent to constitute the HPEC, so as to ensure that the proceedings, and the issues to be considered therein, could be appropriately streamlined.

8. It would also be imperative to summate in this regard that, during the course of the proceedings, there was intense deliberation and elaborate submissions made before this Court by either side in respect of: (a) the constitution of the HPEC and the members comprising it; (b) the issues into which the HPEC ought to conduct an enquiry; (c) the manner in which the HPEC could assist the Court, through periodical reports; and (d) the logistics and modalities governing the functioning of the HPEC.

9. In this vein, parties on either side were requested to render their assistance to the Court and to furnish their suggestions and terms of reference in respect of the constitution of the HPEC, as well as to highlight the various issues into which such Committee could enquire.

a. The Constitution of the HPEC

10. Having given our anxious and holistic consideration to the entirety of the material placed before us along with the multitude of recommendations and propositions, we deem it appropriate and expedient, in the interest of justice, that the HPEC shall comprise:

i. Hon'ble Mr. Justice (Retd.) R. Subhash Reddy, Former Judge

- of the Supreme Court of India - Chairperson;
- ii. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ravi Shankar Jha, Former Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court - Member;
 - iii. Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Shalinder Kaur, Former Judge of the Delhi High Court - Member;
 - iv. Shri Rishi Kumar Shukla, Former Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation - Member; and
 - v. Dr. L.R. Bishnoi, Retired Director General of Police, Meghalaya - Member;
11. This HPEC has been constituted bearing in mind a wide variety of considerations, including the individual expertise and experience of each of its members, as well as the diversity of the Committee, among other factors. We are confident that the recommendations of the HPEC will be of invaluable assistance to this Court, and the Committee will be able to undertake a comprehensive assessment of all such issues as merit due contemplation.
- b. Issues to be considered by the HPEC
12. On the issues to be deliberated upon by the HPEC, the parties were afforded wide latitude to place before us their respective suggestions. Having perused the material placed on record by all the parties, we have been able to broadly segregate the issues emphasised by the Petitioners that call for consideration as follows:
- i. The use of excessive force and violence against protestors

by police authorities and other agencies, including the deployment of pellet guns, electric batons, lathi charges, and tear gas without adequate warning or proportionality, resulting in severe bodily harm and injuries, some of which are alleged to be of a grievous and lasting nature;

- ii. The question of ensuring a proportionate and measured police response during protests, public gatherings, and peaceful assemblies, so as to strike an appropriate balance between the maintenance of public order and the constitutional right to peaceful dissent;
- iii. The desirability of banning the use of metallic kinetic projectiles or pellets fired from pump-action rifles or projectile-action guns, having regard to the grave and, at times, irreversible bodily harm occasioned by their deployment against protestors;
- iv. The necessity of ensuring that police and security personnel wear proper uniforms and visible nameplates at the time of effecting arrests or using force during crowd-control operations, so as to secure accountability and enable the identification of individual officers;
- v. An enquiry into the allegations pertaining to the monitoring and surveillance of protestors by police personnel, and the extent to which such measures, if undertaken, were consistent with the protestors' constitutional rights to privacy and free assembly
- vi. The alleged incidents of targeted violence, harassment, molestation and/or any secondary victimisation directed

against female protestors, which, given the gravity and sensitivity of the allegations, warrant a focused and expeditious enquiry;

vii. The provision of medical and other requisite support, including award of compensation, to victims of alleged police abuse, including the manner and adequacy of such support extended thus far;

viii. Regulation of the issuance of blanket prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, so as to prevent their use as a routine or pre-emptive measure that forecloses the exercise of the right to peaceful assembly rather than as a genuine, proportionate response to a real and imminent threat to public order; and

ix. The establishment of strict constitutional thresholds and safeguards to prevent Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 from being invoked as an instrument to stifle political dissent and peaceful protest, thereby ensuring that the provision remains confined to its intended purpose and is not permitted to operate as a chilling restraint upon constitutionally protected speech and assembly.

13. Similarly, the Respondents have also placed on record their own grievances, and submitted that the HPEC so constituted ought to consider the following issues:

i. The alleged use of force and violence by protestors against police officials and other security personnel, which,

according to the Respondents, has been understated in the narrative advanced by the Petitioners and warrants an equally rigorous and unbiased examination;

- ii. The damage occasioned to public property on account of the actions of the protestors during the course of the said demonstrations, including the destruction of and injury caused to government installations, vehicles, and other assets belonging to the State and to private citizens alike; and
 - iii. The injuries sustained by the police forces in the course of discharging their duties, as well as the consequent mental and emotional trauma borne by their kith and kin merits due recognition and consideration on a par with the grievances raised by the Petitioners.
14. In our opinion, all of the issues enumerated hereinabove merit analysis by the HPEC, upon due consideration of the material and submissions placed before it by the parties. The HPEC is also at liberty to consider any other issues incidental thereto, as it may so deem fit.
15. It goes without saying that the HPEC constituted by us shall be empowered to enlist the assistance of forensic, technical, and domain experts in the course of its enquiry, should it view it necessary so to do.

c. Manner in which the HPEC ought to deliberate on the
aforementioned issues

16. Taking into account the catena of issues raised herein, and keeping in view the seriousness and gravity of some of the issues so outlined, we deem it appropriate to clarify, as a matter of abundant caution, that the enquiry undertaken by the HPEC shall not be a one-time exercise. Rather, the Committee shall undertake a continuous and periodic assessment of the issues enumerated hereinabove, and shall submit its interim findings periodically so as to enable this Court to take appropriate measures and issue such directions as may be warranted.
17. This Court, on the basis of the dialogue undertaken with the parties on either side, would recommend that the HPEC address certain issues on a priority basis, foremost amongst which is the matter relating to the alleged incidents of targeted violence, harassment, and molestation of female protestors, as encapsulated in item (vi) of paragraph 12 hereinabove, bearing in mind the sensitivity attendant upon the issues contained therein.
18. Similarly, the HPEC may also assess the grievous harm and injury allegedly caused to protestors by police authorities and security personnel, as encapsulated in item (i) of paragraph 12 and investigate aspects such as the chain of command resulting in such excesses, those responsible for such actions and

whether there were any breaches of any of the existing laws, rules or norms in exercising such force. Additionally, the HPEC may also examine issues pertaining to the grant of interim compensation to those injured on either side, whether police personnel or protestors, as provided in item (vii) of paragraph 12, as well as item (iii) of paragraph 13.

19. At this juncture, we consider it necessary to enter a caveat that the broader constitutional questions arising herein shall be dealt with by this Court in due course, after hearing the contentions advanced by either side. These are matters that call for a measure of judicial nuance and circumspection, and merit determination by this Court only upon a careful consideration of the submissions advanced before it.
20. The parties are, accordingly, granted liberty to approach the HPEC and submit such relevant material, documentary evidence, and suggestions as they may deem fit, in such manner as may be decided by the HPEC through its Chairperson. Liberty is also granted to complaints, representations and material to be provided anonymously so that the identity of the complainants and witnesses are protected.
21. Further, and with a view to consolidating and streamlining the process before us, as also to establish a clear and abiding conduit of communication between this Court, the HPEC, and all stakeholders concerned, we deem it appropriate to appoint the following counsel as nodal officers in this matter:

- i. Ms. Ashima Mandla, Advocate-on-Record (+91 9999720092) and Mr. Daksh Kadian, Advocate (+91 9465979398) on behalf of the Petitioners;
 - ii. Ms. Astha Singh, Advocate-on-Record (+91 9909792652) on behalf of the Respondents.
22. We also deem it necessary, for clarity, to direct that the Police Authorities, Para-Military Forces, and other Investigating Agencies, who were directed vide order dated 28.07.2026, preserve all CCTV footage, drone footage, body-worn camera recordings, videography, wireless communication records, and PCR call logs pertaining to the student protests, furnish the entire record to the HPEC and extend their full cooperation.
23. It is further clarified that the constitution of the HPEC by us shall in no way deter or debar the Police authorities or other security forces from taking administrative or disciplinary action against such of their officers as may be found to be in contravention of the rules governing their conduct.
- d. Logistics and modalities governing the functioning of the HPEC
24. The Union of India is directed to provide such honorarium, perks and facilities to the Chairperson as may be commensurate to a sitting Supreme Court, including the provision of transit stay in New Delhi.
25. The Members of the HPEC shall be paid such honorarium, for

their valuable time and effort, as may be determined/suggested by the Chairperson, the funds whereof shall be provided by the Union of India.

26. The HPEC shall employ a Member Secretary as may be chosen by the Learned Chairperson. Similarly, requisite secretarial assistance shall be made available by the Union of India forthwith as per the requirements of the HPEC.

27. We request the HPEC to complete its inquiry and deliberations on the issues encapsulated in (i) and (vi) of Paragraph 12 and submit its 'First Interim Report' at the earliest.

28. Meanwhile, issue notice in all fresh matters, returnable on 10.09.2026.

29. Let, notice also be issued in I.A. Nos. 218078/2026 and 223792/2026 (in W.P. (Criminal) No. 280/2026) and I.A. No. 242559/2026 (in W.P. (Civil) No. 917/2026).

30. Ordered accordingly.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI DILEEP KUMAR)
DY. REGISTRAR

Jantar Mantar sealed, protesters detained: How Delhi protest against EC played out

The protest was called against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the Special Intensive Revision, with opposition leaders and student groups among those detained.

Written by: [Pragynesh](#), [Nirbhay Thakur](#) 6 min read New Delhi Updated: Oct 2, 2026 11:34 PM IST



A young man holds up a poster that reads "Killer of democracy" along with a photo of CEC Gyanesh Kumar. (Express Photo By Amit Mehra)

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At 1 pm on Gandhi Jayanti, [police officers were stationed along Janpath Road](#) in Delhi, leaning against a line of barricades that blocked the way to Jantar Mantar.

They watched as 50-60 protesters stood in scattered groups of five or six near a McDonald's outlet: some danced in protest, others shouted slogans.

“Should we get them inside a bus?” a police officer asked his senior.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW. [SUBSCRIBE TO SEE FEWER ADS.](#)



“Wait. If they gather in a group of more than 10, pick them up,” the senior officer replied.

Police had tightened security across Central Delhi ahead of demonstrations called by opposition parties and student outfits at Jantar Mantar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and demands for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.

Must Read | **• Live Now** **India News Highlights 2 October 2026: ‘Lathi can stop a crowd but...’: Rahul Gandhi on protest against CEC Gyanesh Kumar**

But the small groups were a far cry from the crowds that had filled Jantar Mantar and adjoining Parliament Street two months ago. In July, thousands had gathered after Cockroach Janta Party's Abhijeet Dipke began his hunger strike, leading protests that forced then-Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to resign over the NEET-UG exam 'leak'.



By afternoon, police said over 700 people had been detained. (Express Photo By Amit Mehra)

This time, the police weren't taking any chances.

By morning, the area around the Parliament Street police station and Jantar Mantar had been sealed off. Officials said over 4,000 police personnel were deployed around the site, which was divided into multiple zones, each headed by a DCP-rank officer. Drones were also used to monitor the protest site.

The first prominent leader to arrive was Aam Aadmi Party's Delhi chief Saurabh Bharadwaj, around 10.30 am. He was promptly carried away by police and put in a bus.

For the next five hours, police stuck to the same strategy: protesters who arrived from Ashoka Road, Janpath and Tolstoy Road were stopped at the roundabout near Parliament Street, loaded into buses, and taken to Fatehpur Beri and Badarpur police stations.

Also Read | **CJP in Mumbai, AAP, Left leaders in Delhi: Protests against EC, Gyanesh Kumar**

By the time All India Students' Association (AISA) national president Neha Bora arrived, flanked by Swaraj India member Yogendra Yadav and RTI activist Nikhil Dey, 500 people had already been

detained.

Dressed in a red T-shirt, Bora crossed Ashoka Road and tried entering Parliament Street. Pushed back by the police, she and Yadav sat down, with supporters chanting slogans.

DCP (New Delhi) Sachin Sharma approached from behind the barricades as police officers in riot control gear lined up.

The three were swiftly picked up by four police officers and loaded into a bus — the 18th vehicle filled with protesters since morning.



The protesters, from opposition parties to student outfits, were gathering in Connaught Place demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar. (Express Photo By Amit Mehra)

“Gandhi diwas pe Gandhi ke desh mein jo ho raha hai, aap dekh rahe hain (On Gandhi Jayanti, in Gandhi’s country, you can see what is happening),” Yadav shouted from inside the bus. “This

government is acting like the British government. And we are trying to save the country with the flag.”

Despite claims that over [700 were detained](#), police said the figure was around 550 protesters. These included former Delhi Chief Minister Atishi, AAP [Rajya Sabha](#) MP Sanjay Singh and Rashtriya Janata Dal MP Manoj Jha.

In a video shared on X from Fatehpur Beri police station, Atishi said: “We were protesting peacefully at Jantar Mantar. The Delhi police picked AAP leaders and workers with barbarism and brutality.”

The video showed detained AAP workers chanting “*Gyanesh Kumar, istifa do* (Gyanesh Kumar, resign)”.

She wrote in the post: “The fervor of the revolutionaries remains intact at the Fatehpur Beri police station as well... We will continue to fight for democracy. We are not afraid of Modi ji’s police; Gyanesh Kumar will have to go.”

Before the protest, Bharadwaj had addressed the media and said: “Protesting is our democratic right. But the police are telling us permission for the demonstration has not been granted... even though six days ago AAP applied for permission here for a peaceful demonstration.”

Smaller protests went on

Unable to reach Jantar Mantar, small groups of protesters remained around Janpath through the afternoon. College students with backpacks and red *gamchhas* stood alongside middle-aged men and women, with fresh rounds of sloganeering against the Prime Minister and CEC breaking out every few minutes.

A young man in a red kurta held up a hand-painted poster that read, “Gyanesh, it’s done bro”. Below it were the words “vote chori” and “objections”, alongside a book marked “SIR” and an EVM drawn in one corner.



Before a crowd gathered, police sealed the area around the Parliament Street police station and Jantar Mantar. (Express Photo By Amit Mehra)

Pawan, a 36-year-old IT professional based in Andhra Pradesh who was at the demonstration, said, “The protest is against Gyanesh Kumar and the Election Commission. But there’s a larger context, I feel. Demanding the resignation of the CEC isn’t the only thing. People are upset with the SIR. This is a disenfranchisement of millions of voters.”

For Chhai, 26, who lives in Mayur Vihar, the protest was about seeking accountability from the Election Commission. “I felt it was my duty to do this,” he said.

By around 6 pm, police said all protesters were released. A senior police officer said that prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) will apply in the area till October 21.

A police source said no case has been filed yet but they are investigating the roles of protesters. Police denied manhandling any protesters.



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Nirbhay Thakur

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● Past

Regional shutdown

Mobile Internet

National Capital Territory of Delhi

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) ordered mobile Internet services to be suspended in and around Delhi's Jantar Mantar on 2 October from 9:00 to 21:00, as protesters gathered to demand the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Start

2 October 2026 01:00 UTC

End

2 October 2026 13:00 UTC

Total Duration 12 hours

India

**Population**

1,463,865,525

Freedom House rates Internet freedom as **Partly Free**[View full country profile for India](#)

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(Temporary Suspension of Services) Rules, 2024. The order said it had the approval of the Union Home Secretary.

The [Internet Freedom Foundation criticized the shutdown](#) and the absence of a publicly available order. “The public does not know who directed this shutdown, on what grounds, over what area, or until when,” it said in its 2 October statement.

Amid the shutdown, the [government has directed Apple to remove BitChat](#) from its India App Store under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, according to a notice published by BitChat founder Jack Dorsey. The government also blocked BitChat’s website, while the app became unavailable on Google Play in India.

Related documentation

The order, dated 2 October, was obtained by MediaNama on 6 October but has not been published in its entirety.

Other supporting information

It’s difficult to measure the effects of local/regional Internet shutdowns, as most measurements are conducted at the country level. [Learn more.](#)

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The Ministry of Home Affairs suspended mobile internet for 12 hours within a 1.5-km radius of Jantar Mantar on October 2, from 9 am to 9 pm. Around 700 protesters were detained. They were demanding the CEC's resignation over alleged electoral roll irregularities.

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Mobile internet was cut off at Jantar Mantar for 12 hours, but the decision to do so was not made public at that time. IFF criticised this lack of transparency, stating that if the internet can be switched off, the public should be informed as to why.

[medianama.com](#)

Home Ministry order reveals details of October 2 Jantar Mantar internet ...
MHA suspended mobile internet around Delhi's Jantar Mantar for 12 hours during protests demanding the CEC's resignation.

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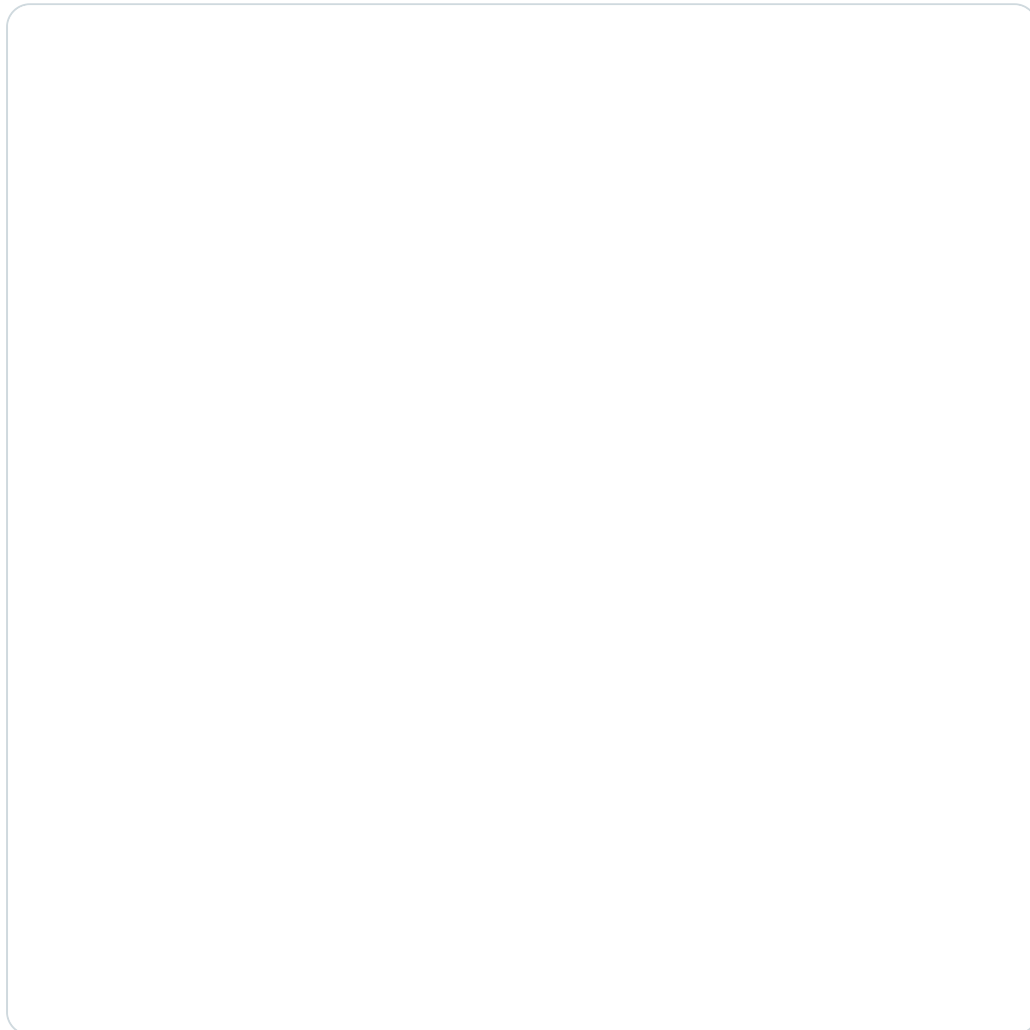
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Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF) @internetfreedom · [Follow](#)

Statement: IFF condemns the internet shutdown in Connaught Place ahead of today's protest. We are tracing the suspension order.

New Delhi, 2 October 2026

The Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF) condemns the suspension of mobile internet services in and around Connaught Place, New [Show more](#)

 Last edited 10:41 AM · Oct 2, 2026

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(at the time of the CJP protest) because they used to shut down mobile data in this area, but this time they have caught on and even shut down the wi-fi connections in the cafes, so there is no connectivity here."

Shutdown history

26 shutdowns in the last 12 months

434 shutdowns since 2019

59,427 shutdown hours since 2019

[View as a list](#)

Community coverage

- [Shutdown before the first protester arrived: IFF condemns the internet suspension in Connaught Place](#) — Internet Freedom Foundation

Related news

- [Mobile Internet Shut Off Near Connaught Place, IFF Flags Lack of Suspension Order](#) — The Wire
- [Home Ministry order reveals details of October 2 Jantar Mantar internet shutdown](#) — Medianama
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Yogendra Yadav, Neha Bora among several detained near Jantar Mantar on day 2 of anti-CEC protest

Second day of detentions of protestors demanding resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar

Written by: [Sakshi Chand](#) 2 min read New Delhi Updated: Oct 3, 2026 10:29 PM IST



Police detain activist Neha Bora during a protest against CEC Gyanesh Kumar near Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Saturday. (Express Photo By Praveen Khanna)

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Several protestors, including AISA national president Neha Bora and Swaraj India member Yogendra Yadav, were detained by Delhi police on Saturday while marching towards Jantar Mantar demanding

the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

[A day ago, Bora and Yadav were among](#) around 550 protestors who were detained while making their way towards Jantar Mantar for a similar protest.

On both days, police said that it had not granted permission for the protests to be held.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW. [SUBSCRIBE TO SEE FEWER ADS.](#)



ALSO READ | Jantar Mantar sealed, protesters detained: How Delhi protest against EC played out

On Saturday, the protestors had gathered for a second consecutive day of protest against the CEC and had begun marching towards Jantar Mantar. Along with Bora, Yadav and student activists, those gathered also included [Rajya Sabha](#) MP Kapil Sibal and advocate Prashant Bhushan. They crossed the first set of barricades before police stopped them near Jantar Mantar Road and moved them into buses.

Bora and other protestors were seen raising slogans while being detained.

While there have been two days of attempts to hold protests against the CEC in Jantar Mantar, security has been beefed up in Central Delhi. Prohibitory orders have been issued in the New Delhi district, around 5000 police and paramilitary personnel have been deployed and multiple layers of barricades erected.

The police have registered three FIRs against unidentified people in connection with Friday's protest, for disobedience of an order issued by a public servant, obstruction of a public servant in the

discharge of duty, use of criminal force against a public servant, and acts committed by several persons in furtherance of a common intention.

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Sakshi Chand

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Protest against Gyanesh Kumar: Journalists allege sexual harassment by cops; Crime Branch to probe claim

Officers said statements of the women were recorded on Sunday. CCTV footage from the protest site will be examined, they added.

Written by: [Alok Singh](#) 5 min read Updated: Oct 4, 2026 11:08 PM IST



Police personnel detain a protester during a protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar near Jantar Mantar, in New Delhi on Saturday. (ANI Photo)

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A day after three female journalists — who were covering protests demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive

Revision (SIR) of voter rolls, near Jantar Mantar — accused Delhi Police officers of sexual harassment, the Crime Branch has been tasked with investigating into the matter, officers said Sunday.

Officers said statements of the women were recorded on Sunday. CCTV footage from the protest site will be examined, they added.

The police, meanwhile, also requested people with video evidence, if any, to come forward.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW. [SUBSCRIBE TO SEE FEWER ADS.](#)



Deputy Commissioner of Police Neha Yadav said the protesters were informed about the implementation of Section 163 of the BNSS in the New Delhi area, under which public gatherings of five or more people, demonstrations and other activities without prior written permission are prohibited. She said police personnel on Saturday acted only after the protesters, who were directed to leave the spot, refused to do so.

“Later in the day (Saturday), three women, who identified themselves as journalists, filed a complaint alleging manhandling by Delhi Police officials and staff during the detention. Their complaints were taken; they underwent medical examinations and all the complaints were sent to the Crime Branch. I request all of you ... that if you have any video footage related to this, please share it with the Crime Branch,” she said.

According to statement issued by the Delhi Police that was posted on X, “On October 3, during the protest in the New Delhi area, while in a law-and-order situation, allegations of sexual harassment were made by three female journalists against police officers. New Delhi District has received their complaints, and the same have been transferred to the Crime Branch for a fair and impartial enquiry.”

Sources said the three female journalists run news portals and work as freelancers.

Also Read | CJP targets CEC, says ready for 3-month stir; AAP, Left lead protest in Delhi, over 500 detained

On Saturday, over 150 people, including AISA president Neha Bora, activist Yogendra Yadav, and senior advocate Prashant Bhushan, were detained for allegedly attempting to return to Jantar Mantar after being held a day earlier while demanding the resignation of CEC Kumar.

According to the complaint filed by one of the journalists, a copy of which is with The Indian Express, she had spotted Neha Bora and other female protesters being detained. She alleged there was no female police officer present. She alleged that when she pointed this out an officer “pushed” and “shoved” her. According to the complaint, when she confronted him, the officer fled the scene.

Another journalist said she was covering the protest on Ashoka Road at 3 pm. “I was recording the detention of Yogendra Yadav and Prashant Bhushan when I felt someone touching my back,” she alleged in her complaint, adding that she turned to find an officer “standing very close” to her. According to the complaint, when she confronted him about the alleged “inappropriate touching”, he dismissed her claim.

Also Read | Jantar Mantar sealed, protesters detained: How Delhi protest against EC played out

On Saturday evening, several freelance journalists and representatives of news portals had gathered outside the Parliament Street police station, demanding action against the officers involved in the alleged incidents of sexual assault. Around midnight, Cockroach Janta Party leaders Saurav Das and Ratna Singh also reached the spot and demanded action against the officers.

To press for their demands — the CEC’s resignation and the registration of an FIR over the alleged assault on female journalists — members of AISA and other activists had called for another protest on Sunday.

Das said his party extended complete support and would stand by every journalist and protester. “The FIR is a must,” he said.

On Sunday, the two CJP leaders reached the spot again. They were later joined by SFI leader Aishe Ghosh and CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat. Das was later allowed to meet the Station House Officer at Parliament Street Police Station and the complainants.



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AISA chief Neha Bora among 120 detained on Day 3 of protest against CEC

The protest came a day after three women journalists accused Delhi Police officers of sexual harassment while covering the stir near Jantar Mantar.

Written by: [Drishti Jain](#), [Alok Singh](#) 4 min read New Delhi Updated: Oct 5, 2026 11:37 AM IST



All India Students' Association (AISA) national president Neha Bora climbs a police barricade near Ashoka Road as student activists attempt to march towards Jantar Mantar, demanding the removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, in New Delhi, Sunday. (PTI Photo)

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Around 120 protesters, including All India Students' Association (AISA) president Neha Bora, Yogendra Yadav, were detained for several hours on Sunday as the [protest demanding the](#)

[resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar](#) over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls entered its third consecutive day.

The protest came a day after three women journalists accused Delhi Police officers of sexual harassment while covering the stir near Jantar Mantar.

On Sunday, while some protested against CEC Kumar, others attempted to march towards Jantar Mantar to demand accountability and a probe into the journalists' allegations of sexual assault.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW. [SUBSCRIBE TO SEE FEWER ADS.](#)



Bora was detained while leading a march from Andhra Bhavan Canteen towards Jantar Mantar. The march saw participation from civil society activists such as Yadav, student protesters and political parties like the Indian Youth Congress (IYC) and the AAP.

ALSO READ | Kerala reopens probe against Gyanesh Kumar in 2006 graft case that saw Malaysian engineer's suicide

“This has just started and many organisations are now joining this, we won’t stop. Even though the Jantar Mantar is closed, we’re on the streets, even women are here to reclaim them. This is the power of common people. Jab tak Gyanesh Kumar ki chhutti nahi hoti, hum chhutti nahi karnege (Until Gyanesh Kumar takes a leave, we will not take a leave),” Yadav said while marching towards Jantar Mantar.

Flags waved and slogans of ‘Gyanesh has to go!’ pierced the air as the crowd split into groups and moved towards Ashoka Road.

With the protest entering its third day, Lutyens' Delhi was heavily fortified, with elaborate security arrangements in place since morning. A large fleet of buses and riot action vehicles had been deployed on multiple lanes, and movement on several roads leading to Jantar Mantar and the Parliament Street police station was restricted.

The Delhi Police also closed the stretch between Ashoka Road and Parliament Street near Jantar Mantar, while prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) were already put across the New Delhi district.

At around 4 pm, as the march progressed towards Jantar Mantar, barricades were put up. When a few protesters tried to cross them, the police began detaining them. Bora was detained in a car by officers, but the vehicle remained stuck for over 20 minutes as protesters stood around it to prevent it from moving.

Ashoka Road remained shut and traffic was halted until 6.30 pm as the protests continued. Amid the chaos, police kept detaining protesters, including AISA activists and members of other left-wing parties. As one police bus filled with detainees pulled away, the next quickly took its place in line. Teams of four to five officers lifted and carried protesters to the buses, while some tried to break the bus windows to get out. Even as detentions continued, people kept protesting. Traffic resumed briefly on the roundabout, but police carried on detaining protesters as their numbers grew.

According to police sources, around 120 people, including AISA, AAP and IYC workers and Yadav, were detained. Bora was taken to Narela police station, police said, adding that all of the protesters were later released. According to police, around half a dozen of their personnel including women staff were also injured while handling the protesters. The injured officers were given first aid at a hospital as well, police said.

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Anti-CEC stir: Journalist detained 2 days after she alleged sexual harassment by cops

The protesters had camped outside Parliament Street police station overnight, demanding against officers who allegedly sexually assaulted three women journalists

Written by: [Alok Singh](#) 4 min read Updated: Oct 6, 2026 11:09 AM IST



Police personnel detain All India Students' Association (AISA) National President Neha Bora during the 'Citizens' March' from India Gate to Jantar Mantar, in New Delhi on Sunday. (ANI Photo)

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The protest against the Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over the alleged irregularities in Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls entered its fourth consecutive day on Monday, with the Delhi Police registering six FIRs and arresting 18 people in connection with the alleged

instances of violence that broke out during a NSUI demonstration and for circulating AI generated poster of policemen, officers said on Monday.

Among the six FIRs, four were related to violence, vandalism and rioting during the NSUI demonstration, one tied to an alleged attack on a CISF personnel and another related to circulating a fake poster that showed an officer allegedly sexually harassing a woman.

Meanwhile, one of the three women journalists who had alleged sexual harassment by Delhi Police personnel while covering the anti-CEC protest has been detained along with 16 others on Monday, for camping overnight outside Parliament Street police station, demanding action against the officers.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW. [SUBSCRIBE TO SEE FEWER ADS.](#)



The same day also saw a CISF constable allegedly getting attacked with a knife by a protester amid an NSUI demonstration at Jantar Mantar.

The developments came amid continued demonstrations near Jantar Mantar and growing demands for a probe into the allegations made by three female journalists, who have accused police personnel of sexually assaulting them while they were reporting on the stir on October 3.

A senior police officer said restrictions under prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) had been imposed across the New Delhi district. According to the officer, gatherings were not permitted at Parliament Street because it is not an authorised protest location.

On Monday morning, around 17 people who had spent the night outside the Parliament Street police station were detained. The group, comprising freelance journalists, YouTubers and one of the alleged victims of sexual assault, had gathered to demand registration of an FIR and action against the officers accused in the alleged sexual harassment case.

The protesters were detained individually and taken by bus to Delhi Cantonment Police Station, officers said. The woman who has alleged harassment told reporters that the group wanted to enter the police station and meet senior officers to find out the status of her complaint. The detainees were subsequently released in the evening.

Also Read | AISA chief Neha Bora among 120 detained on Day 3 of protest against CEC

The police had on Sunday confirmed receiving three separate complaints from female journalists alleging sexual harassment by police personnel during the October 3 demonstration near Jantar Mantar. The complaints have been handed over to the Crime Branch.

Meanwhile, a separate incident involving a CISF constable was reported during an NSUI demonstration at Jantar Mantar on Monday afternoon. The constable deployed for law-and-order duties was allegedly attacked with a knife by a protester, officers said.

The constable, identified as Vikram Kumar, was reportedly moving a young man away from the barricades towards the designated protest area when the man allegedly pulled out a knife and attempted to strike him in the neck, police said. Kumar allegedly raised his hand to protect himself, suffering a cut and scratches on his right elbow, officers said.

Kumar was taken to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and was later discharged. Security personnel at the site detained the alleged attacker and handed him over to the police, officers said.

Also Read | CJP leaders likely to be arrested before October 10 Delhi protest: Saurav Das

In a purported video recorded after the incident, Kumar said he immediately informed his senior officers after the alleged attack. Police are questioning the accused to determine how he obtained the knife and what prompted the alleged assault.

Around 50 NSUI protesters were also detained during the demonstration and later released.

Meanwhile, the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) expressed support for the women who have alleged sexual harassment and demanded action against the police personnel named in the complaints.

CJP legal team head Ratna Singh alleged on X that the woman complainant and others demanding registration of an FIR were detained and claimed that some detainees were assaulted. Police, however, denied the allegation of manhandling, saying the protesters resisted detention while male and female personnel were escorting them to the bus.

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Dear India, the girl is asking you - WHERE CAN SHE GO NOW TO SEEK JUSTICE?

Listen to the barbaric treatment that Delhi Police has given to Journalist Rosy.

Rosy and her colleague were sexually molested by Male police personnel when they went to cover the protests.

So they went to the police station to file an FIR against them.

The lady police there, named Poonam herself detained then, squeezed their breasts hard till they cried in pain, tore their skins by clawing on them, hit them and served explitive abuses...and asks them...Ab Kya?



11:38 AM · Oct 5, 2026 · 8,223 Views

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Rahul, Priyanka Gandhi detained after hours-long anti-CEC protest, released later

INDIA bloc MPs alleged 'vote chori', and demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

By: **Express News Service** 3 min read New Delhi Updated: Oct 6, 2026 11:20 PM IST



Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were detained by Delhi Police on Tuesday evening (Express photo by Gajendra Yadav)

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Led by Leader of Opposition [Rahul Gandhi and Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra](#), leaders of INDIA bloc Tuesday stepped up their attack on the Chief Election Commissioner, demanding his resignation before they were detained late in the evening after staging a protest for hours near the Election Commission office in the heart of New Delhi. The leaders were released later in the night.

Parliament Street shut down as Gandhi and others tried to march towards the EC office with their supporters, and climbed atop police barricades, before finding their way into the Akashvani Bhavan premises.

Through much of the day, Gandhi and Vadra were holed up inside the AIR premises, demanding they be



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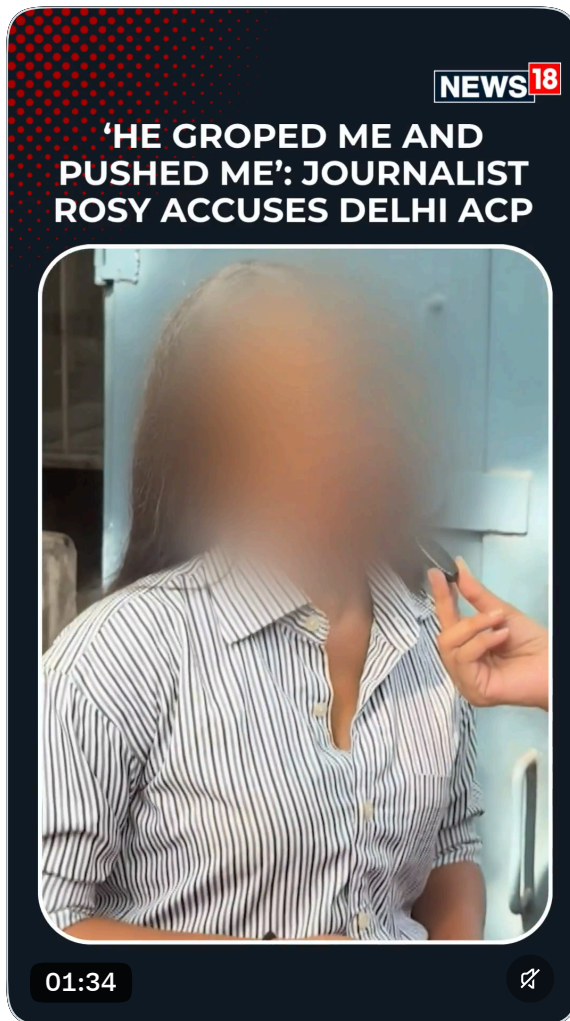
News18

@CNNnews18



"He groped me and pushed me." Independent journalist Rosy has accused Delhi Police ACP Vivek Bhagat of sexually assaulting her while she was covering the Jantar Mantar protest. Speaking exclusively to CNN-News18, Rosy alleged that the officer grabbed her and later directed female constables to remove her from the spot. She says the incident was captured on her camera.

[#Exclusive](#) [#JantarMantar](#) [#DelhiPolice](#) [#Journalist](#) [#DelhiProtest](#)



6:51 PM · Oct 6, 2026 · **8,454** Views



3



4



9



1



Abhishek @Abhishek94739 · Oct 7



[@grok](#) any proof of this assault?

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86

1

55



gauc4 @iconsofevil · Oct 6

She's fabricating the story
She's got no proof no eyewitness among so many people
What a joke she is and shame on our media

31





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Anti-EC protest | 'They have entire career lying ahead': Delhi court grants bail to 17 protesters arrested

In four separate orders, Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Animesh Kumar of the Patiala House Court granted bail to the 17 accused.

Written by: [Nirbhay Thakur](#) 3 min read New Delhi Updated: Oct 6, 2026 11:28 PM IST



The Delhi Police submitted that when the accused were being detained to manage the law and order situation, they

manhandled and assaulted police officers, during which one woman officer sustained injuries.

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Granting bail to 17 people arrested by the Delhi Police during a protest in the Capital against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar on Monday, a Delhi court late in the night sought a report from the DCP (New Delhi) on allegations that two of those arrested were beaten up at the Parliament Street police station.

In four separate orders, Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Animesh Kumar of the Patiala House Court



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ANNEXURE - P12

Watch: Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka hauled away again after lie-in on Delhi road

The showdown erupted after Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge hosted lunch for INDIA bloc MPs at a restaurant on Janpath, less than 2 km from the Jantar Mantar protest site.

Written by: [Chandrashekar Srinivasan](#) 5 min read New Delhi Updated: Oct 7, 2026 10:30 PM IST



The Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were detained by cops in dramatic circumstances. (Express Photo by Praveen Khanna)

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India**

(Established under the Protection of Human Rights Act,
1993)

Protecting & Promoting
Life, Liberty, Equality and Dignity of
all



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[Home](#) / [Media](#) / [Press Release](#) / NHRC, India takes suo motu cognizance of..

NHRC, India takes suo motu cognizance of the reported sexual harassment of three journalists by Delhi Police personnel during a protest at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi on 3rd October 2026

Press release

National Human Rights Commission

New Delhi: 8th October 2026

**NHRC, India takes *suo motu* cognizance of the reported
sexual harassment of three journalists by Delhi Police
personnel during a protest at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi
on 3rd October 2026**

**Issues a notice to the Delhi Police Commissioner,
calling for a detailed report on the matter within two
weeks**

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India has taken *suo motu* cognizance of a media report that three women journalists were subjected to sexual harassment by Delhi Police personnel during a protest at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi on 3rd October 2026.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise serious issues of violation of human rights. Accordingly, it has issued a notice to the Delhi Police Commissioner, calling for a detailed report on the matter within two weeks.

According to the media report, carried on 5th October 2026, the New Delhi District Police received complaints about the alleged incidents, which were transferred to the Crime Branch of Delhi Police for an enquiry.

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Last Updated : **12-Oct-2026**

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G SWRIT PETITION (CIVIL) Diary No(s). 63560/2026

M A BABY

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

WITH

ITEM NO. 803

WRIT PETITION(CRIMINAL) Diary No(s). 63544/2026

Date : 09-10-2026 These petitions were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI
HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE V. MOHANAFor Petitioner(s) : Mr. Kapil Sibal, Sr. Adv.
Mr. P.V. Dinesh, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Subhash Chandran K.R., AOR
Mr. Anirudh K.P., Adv.
Ms. Anna Oommen, Adv.
Mr. Fidal Tom, Adv.

Ms. Akriti Chaubey, AOR

Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Gaurav Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Vishal Sinha, Adv.
Mr. Shourya Das Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Vishal Tiwari, Adv.
Mr. Sanjiv Misra, Adv.
Mr. Shailendra Mani Tripathi, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

Signature valid
Digitally signed by
NITIN KALIA
Date: 2023.10.09
19:23:55 +05'30'
Reason: I am the author of this
document.

In the midst of hearing of today's matters at about 01:00 p.m., an oral mentioning was made by Mr. Kapil Sibal, Mr. Gopal

Sankaranarayanan, Mr. Hariharan N., Mr. C.U. Singh, learned senior

counsel and Ms. Vrinda Grover, Mr. Prashant Bhushan, and other learned counsel, *inter alia*, pointing out two communications dated 08.10.2026 issued from the office of the Joint Commissioner of Police, Transport Range, New Delhi to the Managing Director of the Delhi Metro Railway Corporation (DMRC) and another communication dated 09.10.2026, which seems to have been issued to all the zonal railways.

2. Furthermore, a copy of the order dated 23.08.2026, issued by the Assistant Commissioner of Police purportedly exercising authority under Section 70 of the Delhi Police Act, 1978, and Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS), which issues certain prohibitory directives, was also referenced.

3. We find from the contents of the aforementioned orders that metro trains and all Mail/Express trains arriving at New Delhi Railway Station and Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station have been instructed to cease operations or be cancelled in consideration of the potential risk of unruly mob movements towards sensitive locations. It is also noted that the frequency of metro trains passing through 57 metro stations stands reduced, and their entry and exit gates are to be closed from 9:00 p.m. on October 9, 2026, continuing on 10.10.2026 until the situation normalizes. These prohibitory orders have been made effective from today, that is 09.10.2026.

4. Since the subject orders referred to some proposed protestors at Jantar Mantar, we accorded liberty to the organizers of the protest to submit urgent petitions before this Court, as we were inclined to accord a hearing at 2:00 PM or thereafter.

5. All the learned Senior Counsel, objecting to the cessation of Metro and other rail services, have, however, fairly stated that they do not represent the proposed protesters or the organizers of the said protest. No other petition for or on their behalf has been filed before us.

6. In light of the foregoing, the principal issue for our consideration is whether the absolute prohibition on the movement of Metro trains at Metro stations, as well as the movement of trains from New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Stations, warrants reconsideration.

7. It appears that the notifications are overreaching, as they impose a complete ban upon essential public transportation. Upon our indication that a distinction exists between total 'prohibition' and the 'regulation' of Metro and other train movements, learned Solicitor General of India has fairly agreed to impress upon the authorities to reassess such prohibitions. Consequently, they will permit the operation of Metro trains and other rail services in such a regulated manner, that no inconvenience is caused to the residents and general public of Delhi, while adhering to the principles of proportionality.

8. Regarding that assurance, we clarify that although there shall be no outright prohibition on the movement of Metro trains, a prudent decision may be made to permit the operation of Metro trains and other rail services in a suitable and regulated manner. Such a decision should be widely publicised to prevent further inconvenience.

9. In this vein, a traffic advisory shall also be published in

respect of smooth movement of vehicles in newspapers and on online platforms to ensure that no hardship or inconvenience is caused to the public in the course of traveling within the city. The order will be issued today to ensure that the decision receives publicity and that there is ample clarity on the prevailing circumstances.

10. During the course of hearing, it was suggested, and learned senior counsel and counsel for the parties were *ad idem*, that it is high time basic amenities were provided to those engaged in peaceful and lawful protest. To that end, suitable alternative sites capable of housing such infrastructure need to be identified and designated. Let the Competent Authority consider this suggestion and take an appropriate decision thereon.

11. Let a compliance report be filed by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, the requisite Railway authorities and Delhi Police (Traffic) in this regard within four days.

12. Ordered accordingly.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI DILEEP KUMAR)
DY. REGISTRAR

ANNEXURE - P15

Statement

Internet Shutdowns

Delhi Learned of Its Internet Shutdown from a Leaked "Top Secret" Police Letter, Not the Government

IFF condemns the internet shutdown in Delhi ahead of the 10 October protest. The order remains unpublished, and the police communication conveying it is marked "Top Secret".



Internet Freedom Foundation

09 October, 2026
5 min read[Donate Now](#)

The Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF) condemns the internet shutdown imposed in parts of Delhi ahead of the protest called for tomorrow, 10 October 2026, at

Jantar Mantar, seeking the resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner. A communication dated 9 October 2026 from the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Special Cell (HQ), Delhi to the nodal officers of Airtel, Vodafone Idea, Jio and MTNL, shared by the news agency ANI, records that the Union Home Secretary has authorised, on the request of the Delhi Police, the suspension of "mobile internet services (all technologies)" within a radius of four kilometres of the Janpath-Kartavya Path crossing, from 10 pm on 9 October to 10 pm on 10 October 2026. It refers to order No. 22016/12/2019-CIS-IV dated 9 October 2026 and is marked "Top Secret" at the top and bottom of the page.

As per a media report by Live Law, the Solicitor General informed the Supreme Court today that the shutdown is confined to "certain sensitive pockets" and will be reviewed on the basis of security inputs. The communication describes a circle of about 50 square kilometres across the centre of the capital, which takes in Jantar Mantar, Connaught Place, India Gate, Parliament, the Supreme Court, the Delhi High Court, New Delhi Railway Station and hospitals including Ram Manohar Lohia and Lady Hardinge. This is about seven times the area of the suspension ordered around Jantar Mantar on 2 October, and it runs for twice as long.

Delhi Police has refused permission for the protest, and prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 are in force in New Delhi district. Delhi Police asked for the gates of 57 metro stations to be closed from 9 pm today, and the Railways cancelled trains due at New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin between 4 am and 2 pm tomorrow. Hearing a challenge to these measures today, the Supreme Court directed that there be no complete prohibition on metro and train services and asked the authorities to keep in mind the principle of proportionality. As reported, that order did not examine the internet shutdown. We call for the order to be withdrawn, and for mobile internet to remain available across Delhi tomorrow.

At the time of release of this statement, we have not been able to locate any suspension order published by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Department of Telecommunications, the Government of NCT of Delhi or the Delhi Police. The public knows the area and hours of this shutdown from a police communication

marked "Top Secret" that was shared by ANI, and not from the government. That communication records no reasons, and the order of the Union Home Secretary to which it refers has not been made public. This is now a pattern and the order for the shutdown of 2 October around Jantar Mantar became public four days later, when the Hindu obtained a copy.

This secrecy is contrary to the law declared by the Supreme Court. In *Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India*, (2020) 3 SCC 637, the Court held that "an order, particularly one that affects lives, liberty and property of people, must be made available". It directed the authorities to "publish all orders in force and any future orders" suspending telecom services, including the internet, "to enable the affected persons to challenge it before the High Court or appropriate forum". A democracy "sworn to transparency and accountability", the Court said, "necessarily mandates the production of orders as it is the right of an individual to know". The Telecommunications (Temporary Suspension of Services) Rules, 2024, framed under Section 20 of the Telecommunications Act, 2023, now provide that every suspension order "shall be published", must state its reasons, and must be limited to a clearly defined geographical area and a specified duration. No order may be made unless the authority has considered that its objectives cannot be achieved by any other reasonable means.

The communication shared by ANI invokes Rule 3 of these Rules, the same Rule that requires the order to be published. It is nevertheless marked "Top Secret", the highest security classification used by the Government of India. In January 2021, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued orders bearing the same number to suspend the internet at Singhu, Ghazipur and Tikri during the farmers' protest, and those orders remain available on the Ministry's own website. An order cannot be published and kept "Top Secret" at the same time.

The government has placed no evidence before the public that a shutdown makes a protest safer. The available research is to the contrary as a 2019 study of shutdowns and protest in India by Jan Rydzak, then at Stanford's Global Digital Policy Incubator, found shutdowns "much more strongly associated with increases in violent collective action than with non-violent mobilization". The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights reported in 2022 that many shutdowns

justified on grounds of public safety or national security "were followed by spikes in violence" (A/HRC/50/55). In December 2021, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology recorded that neither the Department of Telecommunications nor the Ministry of Home Affairs had studied the impact of shutdowns.

A shutdown also prevents people from documenting and reporting what happens at a protest. The same UN report found that, "the inability to access tools to document and rapidly report abuses seems to contribute to further violence". Without mobile internet, a journalist at Jantar Mantar cannot file her report or broadcast live. A protester cannot upload a video as events unfold, and a person who is injured or detained cannot send a location to family or a lawyer. On 20 July 2026, mobile internet in Central Delhi was switched off amid reports of the use of force to disperse protesters. In Manipur in 2023, video of an assault on two women on 4 May reached the public only on 19 July, while a shutdown imposed on 3 May was still in force. This is the impact an internet shutdown has which rather than preventing violence prevents the documentation of illegality.

Our demands:

We call upon the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Delhi Police to:

- 1) Withdraw order No. 22016/12/2019-CIS-IV dated 9 October 2026 and keep mobile internet services running across Delhi on 10 October 2026.
- 2) Publish that order, and every other suspension order issued in connection with the protest, forthwith, together with the reasons recorded in writing.
- 3) Withdraw the "Top Secret" marking, and stop classifying suspension orders and the communications that convey them to telecom operators.
- 4) Place the order before the Review Committee within five days, as the Rules require, and publish its final order, as the Supreme Court required on 23 February 2024.
- 5) Ensure that journalists and members of the public can record and report from the protest sites without obstruction.

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ANNEXURE - P16

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My News



India detains thousands, locks down Delhi to foil election chief protest

By Saurabh Sharma, Sarita Chaganti Singh and Sakshi Dayal

October 10, 2026 6:03 AM GMT+5:30 · Updated October 11, 2026



Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke is detained ahead of a rally against India's election chief

Summary

Thousands detained trying to protest in violation of ban

'Cockroach' youth movement founder Dipke also detained

Demonstrators want election chief Gyanesh Kumar to resign

Opposition says disputed voter list changes taint state votes

NEW DELHI, Oct 10 (Reuters) - Police detained more than 2,000 protesters and the founder of the "Cockroach" youth movement in Delhi on Saturday as security forces locked down parts of the capital to thwart a rally demanding the resignation of India's election chief.

Thousands of police and paramilitary personnel were deployed across the city, mobile internet services were suspended in the central business district and dozens of metro stations and markets were shut as authorities moved to stop a demonstration organised by the Cockroach movement.

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The protest was aimed at Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over a revision of voter lists that critics say disproportionately benefits Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The movement had planned to gather thousands of people at Jantar Mantar in central Delhi, but the area was sealed off by security forces before the demonstration began.

A home ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters more than 2,000 people were detained in Delhi. Local media said about 400 protesters were held in India's financial hub, Mumbai.

There was no immediate comment from police on the detentions.

The United Nations human rights office expressed concerns over mass detentions before and during the protests.

"We call on the authorities to ensure that the right to peaceful assembly is fully respected and fulfilled," UN Human Rights Spokesperson Thameen Al-Kheetan said in a statement.

He also urged authorities to engage in "meaningful dialogue" to address the "broadly held" concerns expressed.

The Indian mission to the UN in Geneva, however, called the UN's concerns "misplaced" and said they constitute "an unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of India."

It stressed that the right to peaceful assembly was guaranteed by India's Constitution. "As in every democracy, Indian citizens exercise this right subject to reasonable restrictions in the interest of public order," the statement added.

MOVEMENT LEADERS HELD

Police detained Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke and senior leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka when their flight from Mumbai landed in Delhi, the group said in a statement.

Television footage showed Dipke challenging officers who approached him on board the aircraft.

"I have come to be arrested, arrest me ... I am not afraid of you guys," he said.

"No, this is not an arrest," one officer replied. "Please cooperate."

The movement condemned what it called the "authoritarian detention" of its leaders, demanded their release and vowed to continue protesting.



[1/11] A protester reacts as she tries to stop the police bus carrying detained protesters during a protest organised by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), seeking the resignation of India's Chief Election... [Purchase Licensing Rights](#)  [Read more](#)

"We will continue our protest tomorrow, day after ... until Gyanesh Kumar resigns. We will be on the streets," CJP leader Ajinkya Shinde told reporters.

CJP also said authorities refused to provide updates on the leaders' whereabouts or health, even after news arrived of the death of Dipke's grandmother. Police said Dipke was informed of her death and was offered help to return home for the funeral.

Some opposition lawmakers and former chief ministers Mamata Banerjee of West Bengal, Arvind Kejriwal of Delhi, and Pinarayi Vijayan of Kerala were also detained, TV channels showed.

Representatives of two digital news outlets said police briefly detained four of their reporters while they were covering the demonstrations. A Reuters journalist was also detained briefly before being released.

Across the capital of about 20 million people, security forces set up checkpoints on major roads and entry points, boarded buses searching for protesters and inspected vehicles. Barricades and concrete blocks disrupted traffic while anti-riot vehicles equipped with tear-gas launchers guarded key routes.

NEW CHALLENGE TO MODI

The demonstrations represent one of the most serious tests yet for Modi, stemming from allegations that election authorities improperly revised voter rolls ahead of recent state polls.

Protests intensified after the Indian Express reported last week that two election commissioners had questioned Kumar's voter-list revisions that removed roughly 130 million names from voter lists.

Kumar has not commented but the Election Commission and the BJP have denied allegations of wrongdoing.

The BJP says its electoral success reflects Modi's popularity and India's economic growth, and accuses opposition parties of spreading misinformation.

The near [daily protests](#) come just months after demonstrations over exam paper leaks forced his [education minister to quit](#).

The unrest also comes ahead of a series of important state elections beginning in early 2027.

Rahul Gandhi, leader of the main opposition Congress party, said Modi's opponents would not back down.

A senior BJP member, Ravi Shankar Prasad, said the party was not opposed to demonstrations but the street protests had been "weaponised" by rivals due to election defeats.

DELETIONS AFFECTED STATE POLLS, OPPOSITION ALLEGES

Opposition parties say the deletions affected the outcome of recent state elections won by the BJP and have cast a shadow over voting in the world's largest democracy.

Election Commission data show about 130 million voter entries were removed during the verification exercise, including 63 million people who had relocated, 30 million who could not be traced and 28 million who had died.

The commission says the removals relate to entries identified during the draft revision process and that any eligible voter incorrectly deleted can re-enrol.

Reporting by Saurabh Sharma, Aftab Ahmed, Sarita Chaganti Singh, Shanima A, Sakshi Dayal and Kanjyik Ghosh; Writing by YP Rajesh; Editing by Clarence Fernandez and Ros Russell

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Africa · October 12, 2026 · 4:28 PM GMT+5:30 · 10 mins ago

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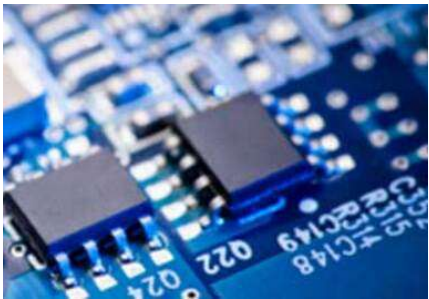
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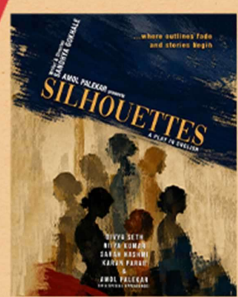
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Good Shepherd
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News

Dragged and detained: Inside the Delhi police's October 10 crackdown on journalists

On October 10, Delhi witnessed a sweeping crackdown on reporters from both independent and mainstream media outlets.



Photo: Pawan Kumar

Pawan Kumar / Alt News

Written by: Shinjinee Majumder

Published on: 11 Oct 2026, 11:28 am

SOUTH CENTRAL **LET ME EXPLAIN** **SUBSCRIBER ONLY** **PODCAST** **VIDEO** **LONG**

Several journalists were stopped from doing their work and detained in Delhi on October 10. They were dragged by their clothes, pushed and manhandled, their phones snatched, and pressured to delete footage of police action. Some were picked up kilometres away from the protest site; others were detained despite wearing press ID cards and repeatedly identifying themselves as journalists.

The sweeping crackdown on reporters from both independent and mainstream media outlets unfolded in the world's largest democracy under a government led by a Prime Minister who has not held a single press conference in 12 years.

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), along with Left-affiliated student groups and organisations, called for a demonstration at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on October 10 demanding the resignation of chief election commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, accusing the poll panel of manipulating voter lists, and seeking a rollback of the exercise.

From early morning, journalists from several independent media outlets were detained before they could reach Jantar Mantar. Ayush Tiwari, a reporter with Scroll, was covering a group of around 50–60 protesters outside the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) office on Deen Dayal Upadhyay Road at around 10:45 am when Delhi Police began detaining them.

"Police arrived at the spot and for some time they were following these guys, constantly behind them. There were about 50 to 60 protesters and 50 to 60 cops. Then a senior cop showed up, and said, 'Why aren't you detaining these guys? Just pick them up.' So a few minutes later they started detaining them, and about 20–30 of them were put in a bus, which also included an India Today journalist. I saw him flash his press card to the cop, but before he could even get out, the bus left," Tiwari said.

The protesters subsequently moved around 100 metres away, outside HKS Surjeet Bhavan, the CPI(M) office, where they continued raising slogans as

[SOUTH CENTRAL](#)[LET ME EXPLAIN](#)[SUBSCRIBER ONLY](#)[PODCAST](#)[VIDEO](#)[LONG](#)

retreated inside the building through its iron gates.

Tiwari was recording the events when a police officer directed others to detain him as well. "At one point, the police were on my right, and the protesters were on my left, and I was sandwiched between them. While I was making a video, one of the cops said, 'Drag him away, isko bhi le jao (take him also).' I was wearing my press card at all times. And I shouted, saying, 'I am a journalist; let me go.' They didn't listen; they pushed me very hard. I also resisted, so I got a scratch on my waist and my shirt was ripped," he said.

Tiwari was taken on a bus with around 10 other protesters. They were told they were being taken to Sarai Rohilla, but the bus moved slowly through traffic. When it reached the area outside Paharganj police station, people outside alerted those inside that fumes were coming out of the vehicle. The protesters began shouting at the police, warning that they could die if a fire broke out. "The protesters started shouting at the cops, saying, 'Let us go, we will die. There will be a fire,'" Tiwari recalled.

Police eventually opened the gates and allowed the detainees to get off outside Paharganj police station. Tiwari began walking away, but a police officer called him back inside. He refused, telling the officer that they would have to drag him in. After he challenged one of the officers, the policeman gave up and let him leave.

Throughout the day, police used force to detain journalists even after they identified themselves as members of the press. Anushka Bhardwaj, a journalist with Business Standard, was dragged by her bag and clothes as she resisted detention. According to a [subsequent account](#), police initially let her go after she identified herself as a journalist. The same personnel later returned and told her, "Bahot ho gaya tera, bahot der se journalist journalist kar rahi hai" (Enough of this; you've been going on about being a journalist for too long), before dragging her away. "My shirt was going up, up. They didn't care," she recounted.

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This is how Delhi Police is treating journalists. Even those who have press badges on them.

Hear the account of the journalist in the next tweet.

[Watch on X](#)

2:55 PM · Oct 10, 2026



1.9K



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At around 1:14 pm, Scroll editor Supriya Sharma posted on X that her colleague and journalist Shoaib Daniyal had been detained in a South Delhi neighbourhood, around 20 km from Jantar Mantar.

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outside my house. There was a policeman standing there so I went up to him and started chatting with him casually about what was happening. I asked him, 'Why have you set up a check post here today?' He became very suspicious. He searched my bag and clicked a photo of my Aadhaar card. He even noted down my address. Eventually, he said that he is going to detain me," Daniyal wrote in his account after being released.

He said the police had first told him he would be taken to CR Park police station, but instead made him sit in a parked bus. He had recorded several videos of police personnel from inside the bus and was pressured to delete the footage.

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“What’s my offence? Why are you detaining me?”

My colleague [@ShoaibDaniyal](#) was simply standing on the road in a South Delhi locality, waiting for a taxi, when he was picked up by Delhi Police.

Watch on X

1:14 PM · Oct 10, 2026



380



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Reuters journalist Saurabh Sharma was also briefly detained from the INA Market area in Delhi, where protesters had gathered later in the day after failing to reach Jantar Mantar. He was allegedly “dragged and kicked” by a masked Delhi Police officer without a name tag.

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I thank you all for checking in. I was let go within an hour and I'm okay. Greatful for all the support, message, and calls.

Piyush Rai  @Benarasiyaa

My friend @saurabhsherry from Reuters has been detained by the police. Why are journalists being detained left, right and centre? Is it some dry run for the full-fledged emergency?

7:35 PM · Oct 10, 2026



180



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A journalist with the digital outlet Molitics was pushed and shoved before being put inside a bus. This happened despite the police officials knowing that they were being filmed and being witnessed by several people around them.

SOUTH CENTRAL**LET ME EXPLAIN****SUBSCRIBER ONLY****PODCAST****VIDEO****LONG**

Independent journalists become an easy target - as one journalist tried to stop another from being picked up, this is what happened...

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4:10 PM · Oct 10, 2026



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Newslandry reporters Ashwine Kumar Singh, Astha Savyasachi, and Anmol Pritam and an intern, Anshu, were also detained.

According to a [report by Newslandry](#), police seized the phones of its reporters Anmol and Anshu, while Ashwine was pushed and had his phone snatched. All three devices belonged to the news outlet. When the journalists identified themselves as members of the press, they were reportedly told, “Koi media nahin hai” (There is no media here). They were taken to Chhatrasal Stadium in north Delhi and subsequently released.

Several journalists working for mainstream media outlets were also detained. Navbharat Times editor Ashish Pandey wrote on X that two of the newspaper’s journalists, Hritik Joshi and Rahul Charas, were detained while covering the protests despite wearing their press ID cards. “They

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Ashish ✓@AshishXL · [Follow](#)

Delhi police has detained Navbharat Times journalists Hritik Joshi and Rahul Charas while they were doing video coverage of the national capital. They misbehaved with Rahul too. They are being taken by police to Dariyaganj side. Our team was carrying clear and visible media [Show more](#)

12:22 PM · Oct 10, 2026



833



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BoomLive editor Jency Jacob also tweeted that their reporter Jagriti Trisha had been detained and that he had lost contact with her since her phone was taken away.

Jency Jacob@jencyjac · [Follow](#)

.@DelhiPolice why have you detained our reporter @Jtrisha7 ? We have lost contact with her as her phone has been taken away. She was reporting through the day. We seek her immediate release @LtGovDelhi @CPDelhi

8:22 PM · Oct 10, 2026



286



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Shivang Shukla, a creator with Mo, the digital video and media brand of India Today, was also detained. He filmed the detention himself. The footage shows him being shoved into a bus while reporting, even though he repeatedly identifies himself as a journalist and tells police he is from

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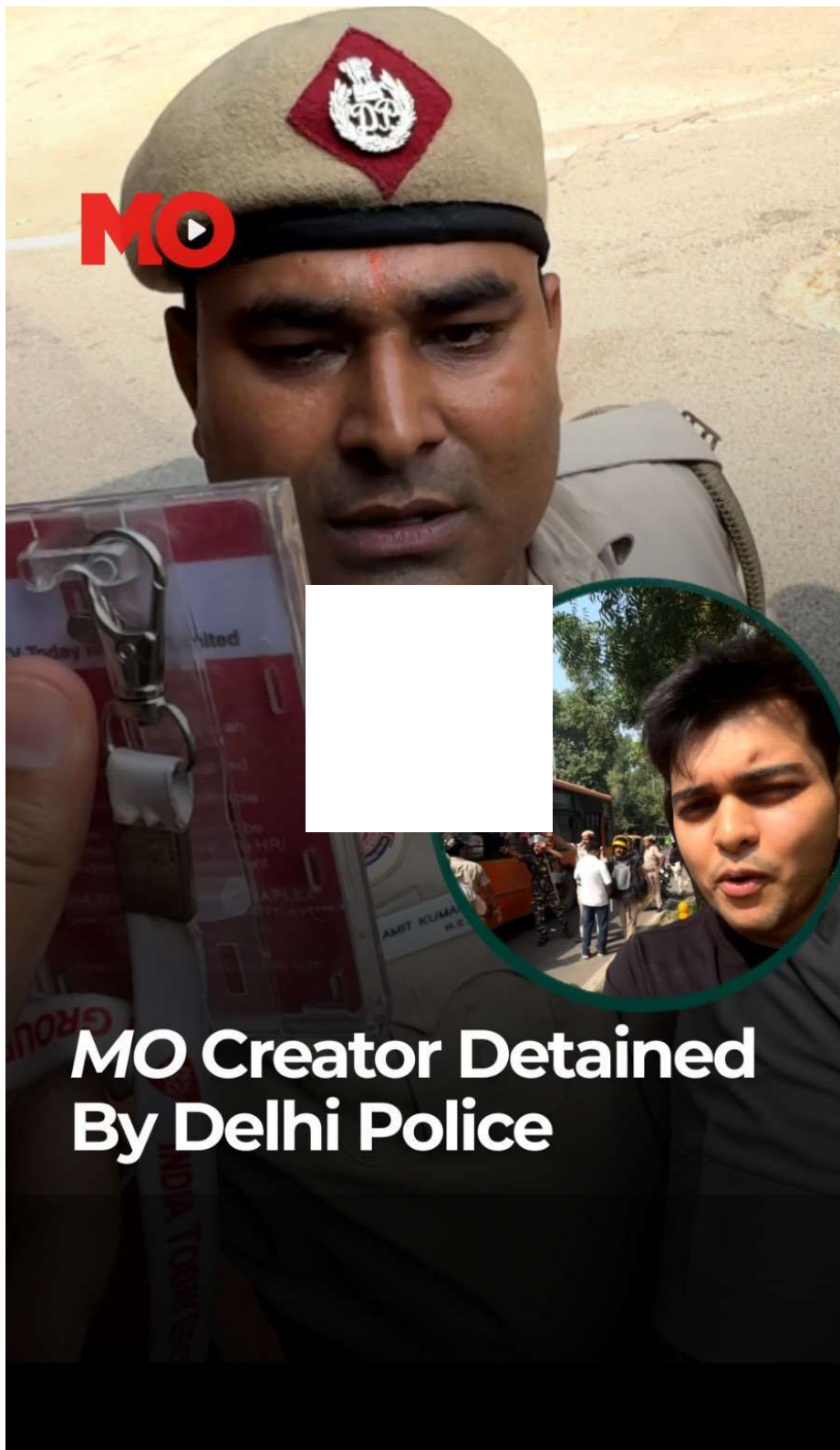
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was later released, while the other detainees remained on the bus.

[@shivanghere](#)

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Journalists detained in other cities

Protests were also held in several cities across the country, including Mumbai, Pune and Bengaluru, in solidarity with the demonstration in Delhi. In Ahmedabad, senior Alt News correspondent Kinjal was picked up by police and detained for over three hours.

She said, "A police officer in plain clothes told a woman police officer to check my ID card. I complied, but I also asked them why they were in civil clothes, and why so many police officers were in civil clothes. After this, they moved ahead a little, and then they sent over two or three women officers to me and said, 'Hold her and make her sit down.' Those officers didn't listen to anything I said. They just held my hand and put me in the van. I kept trying to reason with them and told them I am a media person, but they did not listen."

The following video was shot by Kinjal from inside the police vehicle.

[SOUTH CENTRAL](#)[LET ME EXPLAIN](#)[SUBSCRIBER ONLY](#)[PODCAST](#)[VIDEO](#)[LONG](#)

00:46

Kinjal was then taken to the Sarkhej police station with 22 others at around 8 pm. She was wearing a press card throughout. She was finally released around 9.30 pm.

Scroll journalist Divya Aslesha was detained from Pune's Shaniwar Wada around 3.30 pm. According to [a first-person account](#) published on Scroll, the police attempted to drag her inside a bus alongside other protesters twice. "I screamed and screamed that I am a reporter. I showed them my press card. Someone intervened so the police let me go the second time. But then, because I continued taking photos there, they said, 'Just get inside. You are not leaving this area. We are going to take you with us.'"

She was taken to Lashkar police station, which is about 4 km away. There, a senior police officer told her that they had detained her "by mistake".

In any functioning democracy, journalists covering a protest are not treated as adversaries to be rounded up, manhandled, stripped of their devices or threatened into deleting footage. The events in Delhi on October 10 reaffirmed what was already evident — that the State appears increasingly unwilling to allow space for journalism that holds power to account, questions official actions, or scrutinises its own conduct.

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voter exclusion, procedural opacity and the consequences for citizens' democratic rights. Journalists have played a crucial role in documenting the exercise's impact on the ground, bringing to light what official statements and data often leave unexplained. The Indian Express's recent investigation further intensified scrutiny of the Election Commission and the SIR process, triggering widespread criticism and helping galvanise the protest in Delhi on October 10. The detention of journalists raises the disturbing prospect of the press itself being targeted for doing its work.

This report was originally published by Alt News and can be accessed [here](#).

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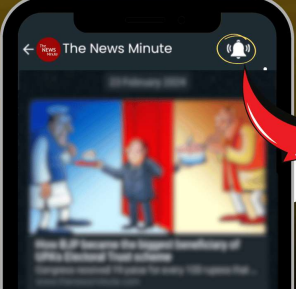
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ANNEXURE - P18

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**Radhika Bordia**

@radhikabordia

...

"I'm a journalist, I work with @moliticsindia and I'm being detained for asking them why you are detaining journalist"

No amount of reasoning with the police could stop them.

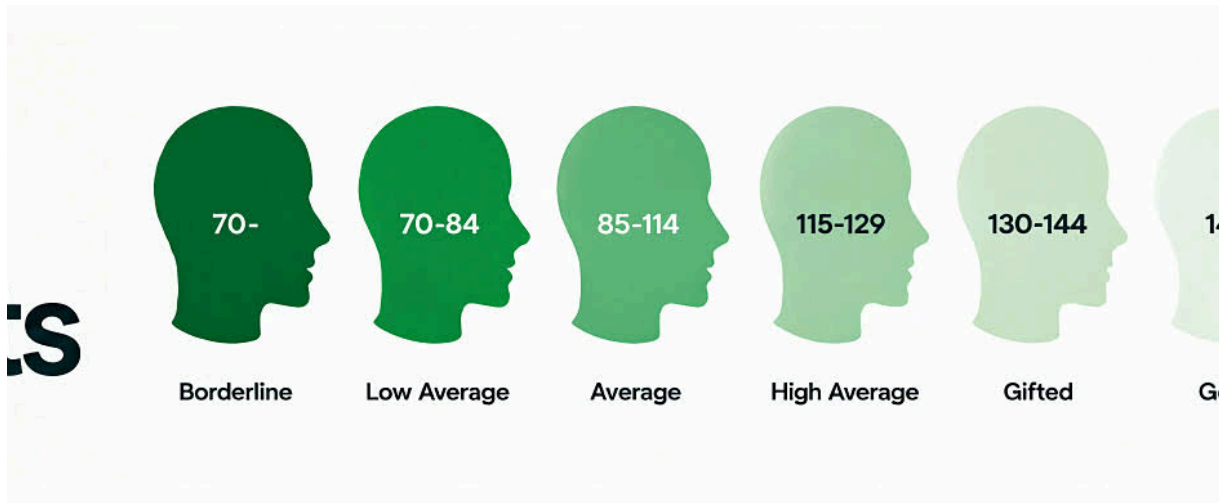
I hope he has been released.

**Radhika Bordia** @radhikabordia · Oct 10

Independent journalists become an easy target - as one journalist tried to stop another from being picked up, this is what happened...



4:17 PM · Oct 10, 2026 · 21.5K Views



YOUTH PROTESTS 2026

What Delhi Police told Scroll's Shoaib Daniyal while detaining him 21 km away from Jantar Mantar

He was among the hundreds detained in and around Delhi on Saturday.

[Shoaib Daniyal](#)

Oct 10, 2026 · 03:46 pm

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Jantar Mantar removed as protest site



CEC prote
among O



Scroll's Political Editor Shoaib Daniyal.

I was waiting outside my home in South Delhi for a taxi around 1 pm. I was supposed to go to Jantar Mantar, which was more than 20 km away from there. The police had blocked the road and set up a checkpoint right outside my house. There was a policeman standing there so I went up to him and started chatting with him casually about what was happening.

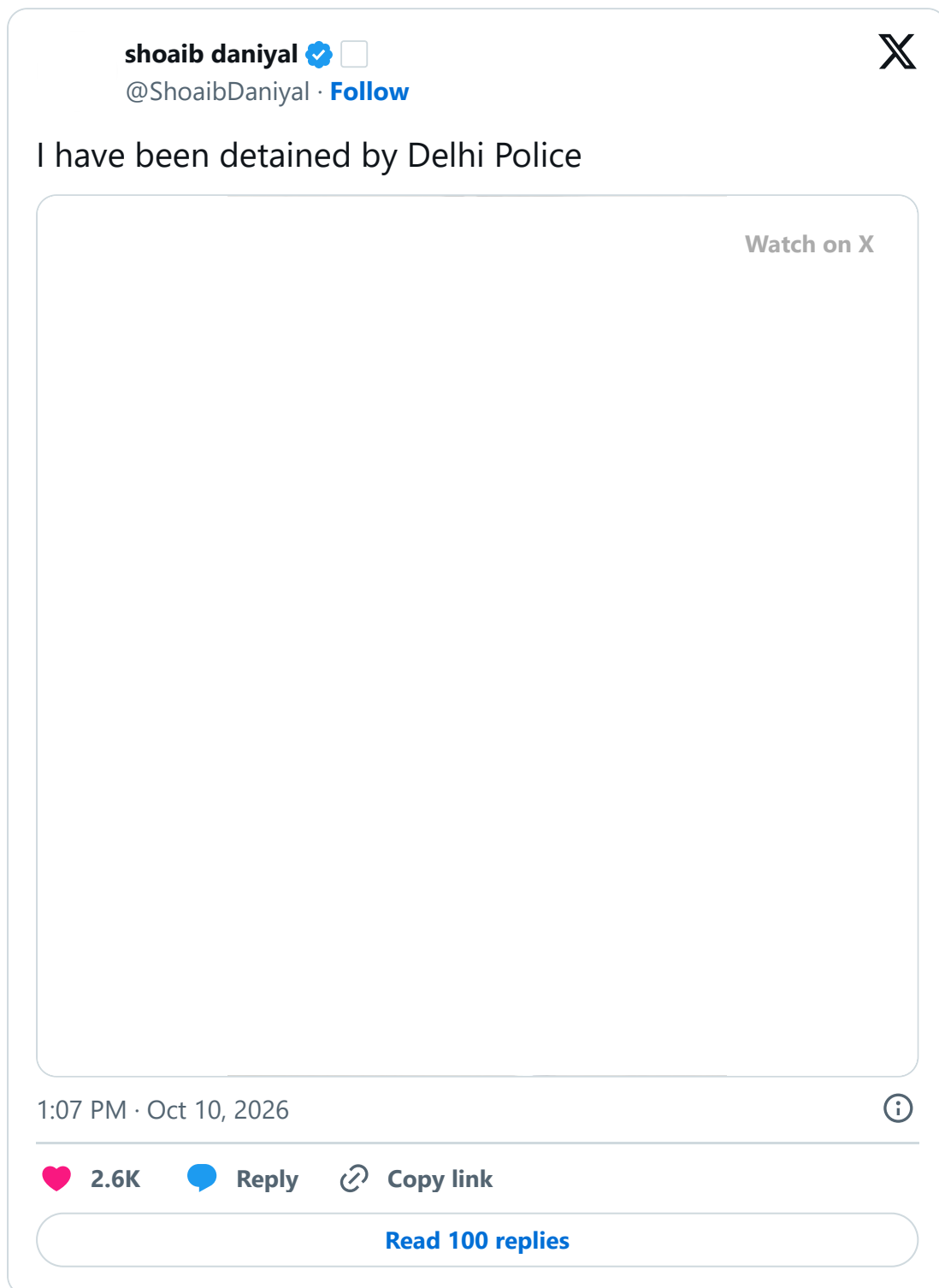
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He called another policeman and together the two of them detained me. They called for a bus and took me inside it.



They said that they would take me to a nearby police station, but they never did. They stopped the bus in the middle of the road and

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They tried to force me to delete the videos on my phone I had shot about the detention. When I declined to do so, they called a couple of more policemen, who also tried to coerce me to delete the videos.

I refused.

The name of the police officer who detained me was Bhagwan Sahay.

I was eventually released around 2.30 pm.

The reason that they eventually gave for the detention was that this was a “bad time”. “You have to understand that there is disorder in the city today,” they told me.

We welcome your comments at letters@scroll.in.

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Anmol Pritam ✓
@anmolpritamND



Watch: How Delhi Police detained Me & My Team.

During the massive Delhi Police crackdown against the CJP protest on Saturday, multiple journalists were detained.

Despite displaying our Press IDs, the police detained me, our producer, and two other reporters from @newslaundry, @AshwineSingh and @SavyasachiAsha



2:38 PM · Oct 11, 2026 · 9,126 Views



8



152



311



23



प्रशांत सोनी پرشانت سونی 🍀 @Prasantsoni · 20h



पहली बार आपको @kunalkamra88 के शो खबरें आजम में देखा
आपकी बातचीत अच्छी लगी

See all the replies

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ANNEXURE - P21

Post

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**Hemant Rajaura** ✓

@hemantrajora_



🚨 Several protesters, including journalists, were detained during today's protest. See this visual from the ground.

9:03 PM · Oct 10, 2026 · **4,013** Views

2



50



169



10

**Raaju RK** @RjRaaju · Oct 11

1:5?



25





ANNEXURE - P22

Post

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@scroll_in

A Business Standard journalist recounts her experience of being dragged by Delhi Police amid the detentions in the national capital. She speaks to Scroll about what happened.

@kri_tikka and @_Vaishnavi_R



Last edited 3:10 PM · Oct 10, 2026 · **5,108** Views



3



86



196



9

**Kk** @Kk44064403 · Oct 11

Sahi hai



8





ANNEXURE - P23

Post

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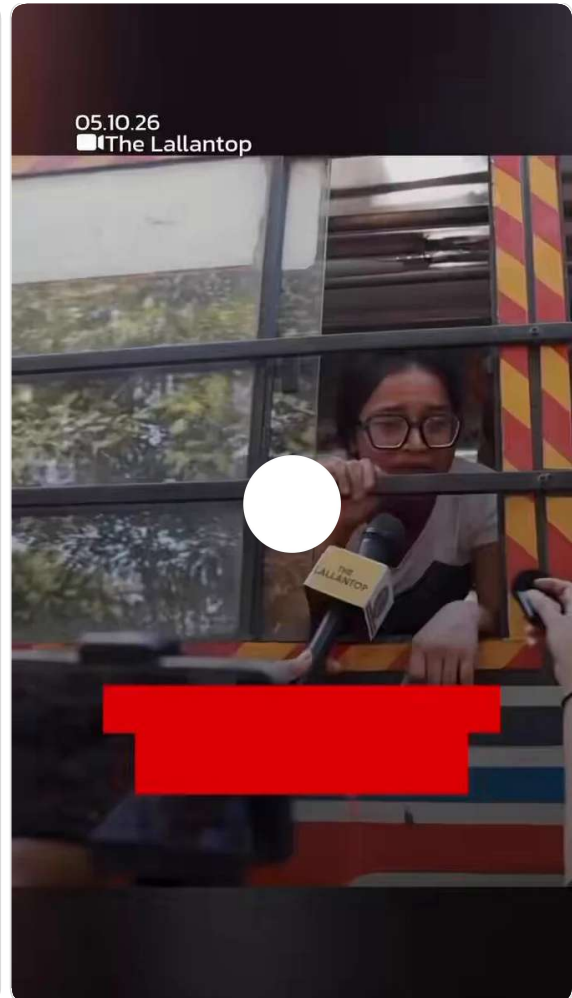
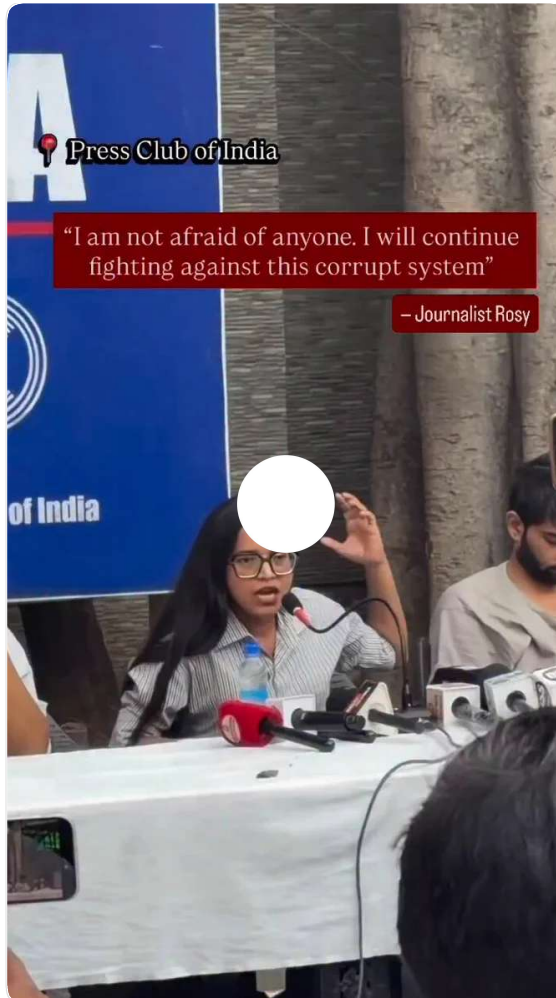
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**Sonel** ✓

@allthingzabsurd



Woman journalist raising serious questions over the alleged sexual harassment and mistreatment by Delhi Police personnel.

**The Lie Lamaa™** ✈️ ✓ @TweetsOfLamaa_ · Oct 10

SAFFRON IS THE NEW BLACK .. WTAF 🙄

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGSCONTEMPT PETITION (CIVIL) Diary No(s). 63801/2026

[Arising out of impugned judgment and order dated 09-10-2026 in Diary No. 63560/2026 passed by the Supreme Court of India]

SHAIENDRA MANI TRIPATHI

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

GOVIND MOHAN,

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 317555/2026 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION and IA No. 317566/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT)

WITH

ITEM NO. 2

WRIT PETITION(CRIMINAL) Diary No(s). 63858/2026

Date : 11-10-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI
HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE V. MOHANA

For Petitioner(s) : Dr. Menaka Guruswamy, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Chand Qureshi- 3063, AOR
Mr. Shailendra Mani Tripathi In Person, Adv.
Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Pradeep Kumar Yadav, Adv.
Ms. Pooja Shilpkar, Adv.
Mr. Priyendu Raghav Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Vishal Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Tayyab Khan Salmani, Adv.
Mr. Harish Lodhi, Adv.
Mr. Mujahid Ahmad, Adv.
Mr. Mohit Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Imran Siddiqui, Adv.
Mr. Shahid Ali Siddiqui, Adv.
Mr. Gaurav Yadava, Adv.
Ms. Davinder Pal Kaur, Adv.
Mr. Mohd Shahzad Ansari, Adv.
Mr. Shahzad Naqvi, Adv.
Mr. Aarif Ali, Adv.
Ms. Anjali Kumari, Adv.
Mr. Deepak Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Sanjay Hegde, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Devvrat, Adv.

Ms. Yugandhara Pawar Jha, Adv.
 Ms. Khushbu Sahu, Adv.
 Ms. Nivedita Nair, Adv.
 Ms. Meenakshi Kalra, Adv.
 Mr. Anas Tanwir, AOR

Mr. Gaurav Kumar, Adv.
 Mr. S. Misra, Adv.
 Mr. Naman Shrestha, Adv.
 Mr. Vishal Tiwari, Adv.
 Mr. Anuj Saxena, AOR

Mr. Kapil Sibal, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. N. Hariharan, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. P.V. Dinesh, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Subhash Chandran, AOR
 Mr. Anirudh K.P., Adv.
 Ms. Ashima Mandla, Adv.
 Ms. Aparajita Jamal, Adv.
 Mr. Siddharth K., Adv.
 Mr. Sumedh Sarkar, Adv.
 Mr. Nikhil Pahwa, Adv.
 Mr. Arjan Singh Mandla, Adv.
 Ms. Mandakini Singh, Adv.
 Mr. Fidal Tom, Adv.

Mr. Dhruva Kumar, Adv.
 Ms. Sunita Majumdar, Adv.
 Mr. Ranjit Kumar Biswas, Adv.
 Mr. Shah Mohd., Adv.

Mr. K.K. Venugopal, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Sr. Adv.
 Ms. Pooja Dhar, Adv.
 Ms. Chinmayee Chandra, Adv.
 Mr. Vishal Sinha, Adv.
 Mr. Shourya Dasgupta, Adv.
 Mr. Siddharth Venugopal, Adv.
 Mr. Tushar Srivastava, Adv.
 Ms. Bijaharini Gopal Krishnan, Adv.
 Mr. Rishav Ranjan, Adv.
 Ms. Samriddhi Agarwal, Adv.
 Mr. Divyansh Thakur, Adv.
 Ms. Gantavaya Vasisth, Adv.
 Ms. Nivedita Rani, Adv.
 Mr. Arpit Malviya, Adv.
 Ms. Pratistha Aggarwal, Adv.
 Mr. Apar Gupta, Adv.
 Mr. Aditya Mishra, Adv.
 Mr. Aditya Dubey, Adv.
 Mr. Dhandapani M., Adv.

Mr. Kapil Sibal, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Shoeb Alam, Sr. Adv.
 Ms. Fauzia Shakil, AOR
 Ms. Rashmi Singh, Adv.
 Ms. Aparjita Jamwal, Adv.
 Mr. Ujjwal Singh, Adv.
 Mr. Khalid Ali, Adv.
 Mr. Nazmeen Ahmed, Adv.

Mr. Surit Chaubey, Adv.
 Ms. Ishtha Singh, Adv.

Mr. Avi Singh, Sr. Adv.

Ms. Arundhati Katju, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Lavkesh Bhambhani- 4313, AOR
 Ms. Ritika Meena, Adv.
 Ms. Spriha Pachauri, Adv.
 Ms. Shaswati Parhi, Adv.
 Mr. Anmol Gupta, Adv.
 Ms. Bhumika Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Sanjay Hegde, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Devvrat, Adv.
 Ms. Yugandhara Pawar Jha, Adv.
 Mr. Aljo Joseph, Adv.
 Ms. Pallavi Barua, Adv.
 Ms. Khushbu Sahu, Adv.
 Ms. Nivedita Nair, Adv.
 Ms. Meenakhsi Kalra, Adv.
 Ms. Reena Pandey, Adv.
 Mr. Anas Tanwir, AOR

Mr. Kapil Sibal, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Narendra Mishra, Adv.
 Ms. Aakansha Tiwari, Adv.

Ms. Tanushree Bhalla, Adv.
 Mr. Ashish Pandey, AOR
 Ms. Meenu Padha, Adv.
 Mr. Mohsin Alam, Adv.

Mr. Shadan Farasat, Sr. Adv.

Dr. Monika Gusain, Sr. Adv.

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General
 Mr. Tarun Johri, AOR

Mr. Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General
 Mr. S.V. Raju, ASG

Mr. Annam Venkatesh, Adv.
 Mr. Bhuvan Kapoor, Adv.
 Ms. Sansriti Pathak, Adv.
 Ms. Astha Singh, Adv.
 Ms. Srishti Mishra, Adv.
 Ms. Pragya Choudhary, Adv.
 Mr. A.K. Sharma, AOR

For applicant(s)
 in IA/impleader:

Mr. Vipin, Adv.
 Mr. Hemraj Murmu, Adv.
 Mr. Ajit Kumar Ekka, AOR
 Mr. Sunil Roy, Adv.
 Ms. Dimple Singh, Adv.
 Mr. Kaffi Beniwal, Adv.

Mr. Praneet Pranav, Adv.
 Mr. Bhaskar Gautam, Adv.
 Mr. V.C. Shukla, AOR
 Mr. Lakshya S. Pandey, Adv.
 Ms. Astha Singh, Adv.
 Ms. Isha B., Adv.

Mr. Saurabh Mishra, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Santosh Kumar, Adv.
 Mr. Tadimalla Bhaskar Gowtham, Adv.
 Mr. Alabhya Dhamija, AOR
 Mr. Vishal Kumar Singh, Adv.
 Mr. Vivek Kumar Pandey, Adv.
 Ms. Jyoti Tiwary, Adv.
 Mr. Krishna Kant Dubey, Adv.
 Mr. Gopal Jha, Adv.
 Ms. Jahnavi Verma, Adv.
 Mr. Jainendra Kumar, Adv.
 Ms. Mahima Pandey, Adv.
 Mr. Surya Pratap Tyagi, Adv.

Mr. Sunil Kumar, Adv.
 Mr. Shrey Ravi Dambhare, Adv.
 Mr. Dheeraj, Adv.
 Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Adv.
 Mr. Kunal Mehra, Adv.

Mr. Pavan Narang, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Piyush Beriwal, AOR
 Ms. Ruchita Srivastava, Adv.
 Mr. Sparsh Jain, Adv.

Mr. Kirti Uppal, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Neeraj, Applicant/intervenor in person
 Mr. Satya Ranjan Swain, Adv.
 Mr. Shoumendu Mukherji, AOR
 Mr. Rajesh Singh Chauhan, Adv.

Mr. Kautilya Birat, Adv.
Mr. Tushar Hazrati, Adv.
Mr. B.L. Shivhare, Adv.
Mr. Shivam Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Himanshu Pathak, Adv.
Mr. Vedansh Anand, Adv.

Mr. Rahul G. Tanwar, Adv.
Mr. Nishant Kumar, AOR

Ms. Rachna Shrivastava, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Akash Vajpai, AOR

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

1. Application for permission to file contempt petition is allowed.

2. In view of the urgent applications alleging violation of our earlier order dated 09.10.2026 and also alleging illegal detention of large number of individuals at Delhi on 10.10.2026, this Court has assembled for an urgent hearing.

3. During hearing, Mr. K.K. Venugopal, Mr. Kapil Sibal, Mr. N. Hariharan, Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Dr. Menaka Guruswamy, Mr. Shadan Farasat, Dr. Monika Gusain, Mr. Shoeb Alam, Mr. Sanjay Hegde, learned senior counsel and Mr. Devvrat, learned AOR along with other learned senior counsel/counsel submitted that there were flagrant violations of directions given in our order dated 09.10.2026; metro railway was not functioning; New Delhi railway station and Nizamuddin railway station remained closed; no traffic advisories were issued and large number of persons were subjected to undue harassment and illegal detention even beyond the area which was covered by the prohibitory order passed under Section 163

of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 ("BNSS"). It was also contended that there was a complete shutdown of the internet and that the city bore a curfew like look with suspension of transport and free movement of people and goods.

4. In addition to such submissions, oral mentionings were made in respect of Diary No. 63952/2026, Diary No. 63943/2026 and Diary No. 63944/2026 wherein similar prayers had been made.

5. Dr. Menaka Guruswamy in support of the listed matters being Diary No.63801/2026 (in Diary No.63560/2026) and Diary No.63858/2026 took us through the pleadings, wherein it has been averred that the metro railway stations namely GTB Nagar Metro Station and Viswavidyalaya Metro Station among other metro stations were completely shut out to public and there has been a deliberate and wilful violation of our order as aforesaid.

6. Addressing us on the Habeas Corpus petition (Diary No.63858/2026), Dr. Guruswamy forcibly contended that the prayer re: illegal detention is not merely restricted to the personalities referred to therein but is a plea against widespread illegal detention of about 7,000 individuals in the city.

7. In rebuttal, Mr. Tushar Mehta, learned Solicitor General of India & Mr. S.V. Raju, learned Additional Solicitor General of India contend that the petitions which were orally mentioned have not been served on the Union and accordingly they are unable to assist the Court on the issues pleaded therein.

8. With regard to the allegations made in the Diary No. 63801/2026, Mr. Tushar Mehta orally denies and disputes the allegations of violation of order dated 09.10.2026 and contends that the Delhi Metro was functioning normally, however, 45 out of 303 stations had been closed to maintain law and order. In response to the Habeas Corpus petition, he denied any one had been illegally detained and otherwise the petition is infructuous as the detenues referred to have since been released.

9. With regard to the submission that the essential services still remain suspended, he assured this Court that all metro stations are open since 10 p.m. yesterday, trains are functioning normally and internet connection has been restored. With regard to a serious insinuation that Section 163 of the BNSS had been clamped in and around the Supreme Court premises, Mr. Mehta sought time to seek instructions.

10. Other counsel have made prayers for intervention in these proceedings and contend that the fundamental freedoms must be exercised in a reasonable manner and must be subjected to reasonable restrictions.

11. Having heard the learned senior counsel as well as the learned Solicitor General of India and learned Additional Solicitor General of India, we note that our order dated 09.10.2026, *inter alia*, held as follows:

"7. It appears that the notifications are overreaching, as they impose a complete ban upon essential public transportation. Upon our indication

that a distinction exists between total 'prohibition' and the 'regulation' of Metro and other train movements, learned Solicitor General of India has fairly agreed to impress upon the authorities to reassess such prohibitions. Consequently, they will permit the operation of Metro trains and other rail services in such a regulated manner, that no inconvenience is caused to the residents and general public of Delhi, while adhering to the principles of proportionality.

8. Regarding that assurance, we clarify that although there shall be no outright prohibition on the movement of Metro trains, a prudent decision may be made to permit the operation of Metro trains and other rail services in a suitable and regulated manner. Such a decision should be widely publicised to prevent further inconvenience.

9. In this vein, a traffic advisory shall also be published in respect of smooth movement of vehicles in newspapers and on online platforms to ensure that no hardship or inconvenience is caused to the public in the course of traveling within the city. The order will be issued today to ensure that the decision receives publicity and that there is ample clarity on the prevailing circumstances.

10. During the course of hearing, it was suggested, and learned senior counsel and counsel for the parties were *ad idem*, that it is high time basic amenities were provided to those engaged in peaceful and lawful protest. To that end, suitable alternative sites capable of housing such infrastructure need to be identified and designated. Let the Competent Authority consider this suggestion and take an appropriate decision thereon.

11. Let a compliance report be filed by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, the requisite Railway authorities and Delhi Police (Traffic) in this regard within four days.

12. Ordered accordingly."

12. In summary, by the said order, firstly, the authorities concerned had been directed to revisit the earlier notification issued by Delhi Metro regarding closure of 57 metro stations keeping in mind the fact that the operation of metro train and other rail services may be regulated in appropriate situations but not prohibited outrightly. Secondly, the order had also directed the authorities to give wide publicity to the reconsidered decision to avoid further inconvenience to the public. Thirdly, the order had directed fresh traffic advisories in newspapers and online platforms in respect of free vehicle movement. The order has also called upon the authorities to submit a compliance report within four days i.e., 13.10.2026.

13. Having considered the submissions of the learned counsel for the parties and perused the averments in the Contempt Petition, we are of the opinion that the petitioners have made out a *prima facie* case. Accordingly, we issue notice upon the alleged contemnors. They are directed to file counter affidavit to the said petition including a compliance report in terms of our order as aforesaid by 13.10.2026. Their personal presence is dispensed with in the meanwhile. Similarly, notice is issued in Habeas Corpus Petition (Diary No.63858/2026).

14. The other unlisted mentioned petitions shall be served upon the office of the Solicitor General during the course of the day and shall be tagged with the present matters. Intervention/impleadment application(s) shall also be tagged with these matters.

15. Learned counsel have strongly urged for ad-interim reliefs with regard to smooth operation of metro rail, traffic, internet services and free movement of people, especially lawyers, journalists and other professionals. Mr. Mehta has, on instructions, submitted that internet facilities have since been restored and all metro railway stations are fully functional. He also assures the Court that lawyers, journalists and other professionals shall not be impeded in discharge of their professional duties.

16. Taking note of such submissions, we direct as follows:

(a) Metro trains and railway facilities shall function normally until and unless they need to be regulated keeping in mind reasonable restrictions envisaged under Article 19(2).

(b) Similarly, free movement of people in the city shall be ensured subject to law and order situation and/or traffic regulations. Imposition of barricades on roads shall be reviewed forthwith to ensure free movement subject to law and order and traffic requirements.

(c) Internet facilities should function unhindered.

(d) There shall be no illegal detention, particularly in cases of peaceful unarmed assemblage of people beyond the area where Section 163 BNSS is in operation.

(e) We have been informed that a notice board stating Section 163 BNSS has been invoked in and around the precincts of the Supreme Court has been put up in the Court premises. We direct the authorities concerned to forthwith take down the said board, if not

already done, so that there is no apprehension with regard to ingress and egress to the Supreme Court or any other court of law.

(f) Lawyers, journalists and other professionals shall not be hindered in discharge of their professional duties in any manner whatsoever.

17. List on 13.10.2026 for further consideration along with Diary No. 63952/2026, Diary No. 63943/2026, Diary No. 63944/2026 and application(s) for intervention/impleadment.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI DILEEP KUMAR)
DY. REGISTRAR

<https://x.com/anmolpritamND/status/2109209511856644250>



Sreenivasan Jain
@SreenivasanJain

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Breaking: at least six more journalists detained, shoved into a van by Delhi Police as they were asking the cops about the detention of a journalist moments ago at the same location.

As I question the police, one of them tells me: 'this is not the right time to ask anything'.



3:33 PM · Oct 11, 2026 · **113K** Views

<https://x.com/SreenivasanJain/status/2109233243862216822?s=20>



Sreenivasan Jain
@SreenivasanJain

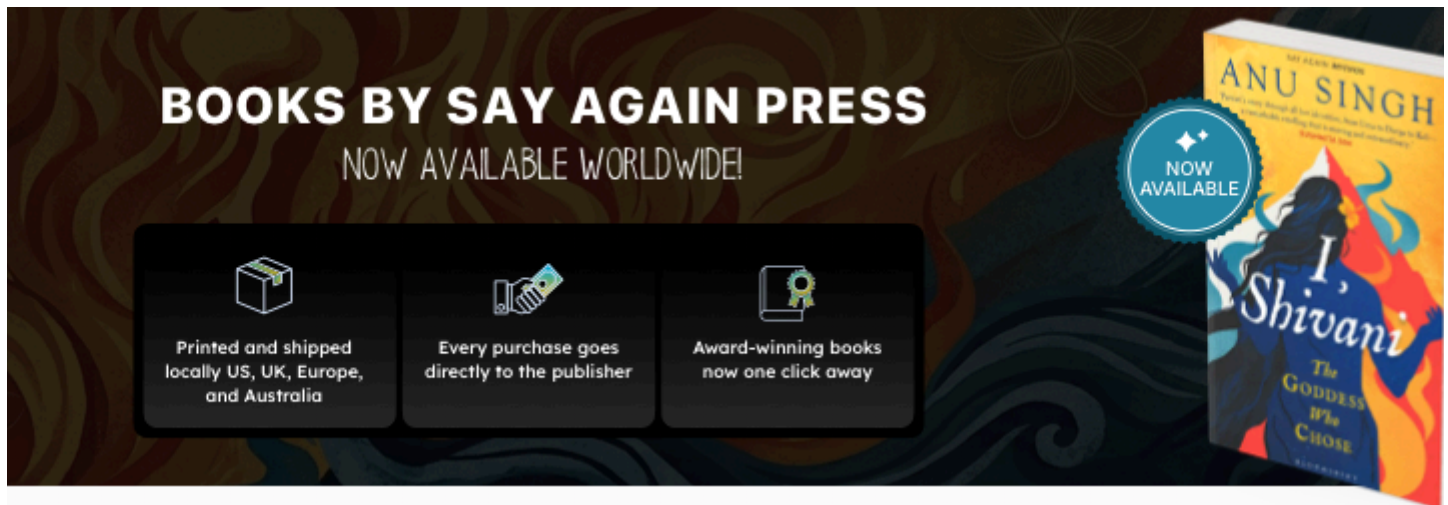
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A further update on the detention of at least 7 journalists at the RK Ashram Marg location in Central Delhi, after an off camera conversation with a senior police official.



Last edited 4:12 PM · Oct 11, 2026 · **59K** Views

**PRESS FREEDOM**

CEC protests: At least 11 journalists detained while covering demonstrations in Delhi

Global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders said that the police action against the press was 'unacceptable'.

Scroll Staff

Yesterday · 05:53 pm

Updated 2 hours ago

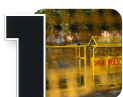
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Jantar Mantar removed as protest site



CEC protest: Mamata Banerjee among Opposition leaders det



A protestor holds a placard during CJP protest at Shivaji Park in Dadar on October 2. | Scroll Staff

The Delhi Police [detained](#) at least 11 journalists covering protests against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar for the second consecutive day on Sunday.

Three journalists from [The Indian Express Hindi](#), one from *The Caravan*, two from *Peek TV* and at least three journalists working with Malayalam news channels, including Reporter TV, 24 News and [Asianet News](#), were also detained.



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Journalist and content creator Shyam Meera Singh was also [detained](#). His account

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at platform X was [withheld](#) in India on Sunday. [Uttara Mantra](#) was moved as protest site



CEC protest: Mamata Banerjee among Opposition leaders det

The Indian Express reported that its journalists Shashwat, Siya and Vijay were detained while reporting from Connaught Place. They were taken to Chhatrasal Stadium and later released, the newspaper reported.

Ayush Tiwari@sighyush · [Follow](#)

Shyam Meera Singh detained at CP after being heckled and abused by Hindutva activists. [@scroll_in](#)

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8:02 PM · Oct 11, 2026



8.1K



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On Sunday afternoon, journalists from several media organisations were detained by Delhi Police while they were covering protests near Lady Hardinge Hospital.

Despite wearing their press cards prominently, they were dragged into a bus and taken away.

[@knowleena](#) reports

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8:44 PM · Oct 11, 2026



8

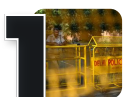


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Breaking: at least six more journalists detained, shoved into a van by Delhi Police as they were asking the cops about the detention of a journalist moments ago at the same location.

As I question the police, one of them tells me: 'this is not the right time to ask anything'.

Watch on X

3:33 PM · Oct 11, 2026



3K



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Peek TV said its journalists Vedanta Agarwal and Sara Khan were “[dragged](#)” and detained by the Delhi Police from Connaught Place while reporting on the detention of protesters, despite showing their press cards.

The Caravan’s journalist Ryan Thomas was [detained on Sunday](#) while recording a video of a group of police officers taking a person to a detention bus.

According to the news outlet, the police personnel assaulted Thomas, despite his identifying himself as a journalist. They repeatedly hit him, pressured him to delete his footage and allegedly even tried to break his camera. He was later released and

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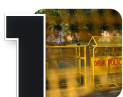


ment at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital



CEC protest: Mamata Banerjee among Opposition leaders det

Independent journalist [Nidhi Suresh](#) was detained at around 3 pm on Sunday, in the same van as student leader Neha Bora, *The News Minute* Editor Dhanya Rajendran said on social media.





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Jantar Mantar removed as protest site

#PeekOnG

Peek TV journalists Vedanta Agarwal and Sara Khan were violently dragged by Delhi Police personnel on Sunday while reporting on the police detaining peaceful protesters in Connaught



CEC protest: Mamata Banerjee among Opposition leaders det

Cameraperson: [@kritikapanday](#) [@sarakhanx._](#)

The Malayalam journalists were also released hours later, *Mathrubhumi* reported.

Independent journalist M Rajshekhar was [held](#) while taking photographs of students being detained in Connaught Place.

On Saturday, [Scroll journalists](#) Ayush Tiwari and Shoaib Daniyal were detained in Delhi, and Divya Aslesha in Pune while covering protests demanding the resignation of Kumar.

Journalists from *Newslaundry*, *The Quint*, the *Navbharat Times*, Reuters, *Alt News*, *Boom Live*, *Molitics* and Reporter TV were also detained. They were released later that day.



@snarmasupriya · FOLLOW

This is how Delhi Police is treating journalists. Even those who have press badges on them.

Hear the account of the journalist in the next tweet.

Watch on X

2:55 PM · Oct 10, 2026



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'Police's actions against journalists are unacceptable'

On Sunday, global media watchdog Reporters Sans Frontières raised concerns about the "[brutal detention](#)" of journalists in India while they were covering the protests.

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Jantar Mantar removed as protest site

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CEC protest: Mamata Banerjee among Opposition leaders det

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At least 16 journalists, including *Scroll* journalists, had been detained, said the organisation.

“Covering events of public interest is not a crime,” the media watchdog said. “It is their job. The police’s actions against the press are unacceptable.”

Digipub News India Foundation, an association of independent digital news organisations and journalists of which *Scroll* is a member, [expressed concern](#) about the conduct of the Delhi Police and the Union government. The police in the national capital report to the Union home ministry.

The news association said that the Supreme Court had on Sunday said that no peaceful, unarmed citizen is to be illegally detained and free movement of people must be ensured. “The order is clear,” Digipub said in a statement. “The response on the ground has been the opposite.”

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It added: “Detaining a journalist with a press card and a microphone is not crowd control. It is an attempt to stop the public from seeing what is happening.”

The association said that beating journalists for doing their jobs is a “flagrant disregard” of the Supreme Court’s directions on illegal detention and fundamental rights of citizens.

“Independent and digital journalists appear to be bearing the brunt of this,” Digipub said.

The association demanded that the authorities comply with the court's orders and immediately release all detained journalists.

It also said that all journalists must be provided unhindered access to cover the protests.

The Digipub News India Foundation also sought an independent inquiry into the illegal detentions and the assault on journalists.

The protests have been called by the Cockroach Janta Party political campaign and student groups affiliated with Left parties.

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Protests have been held in several parts of the country in recent weeks, with demonstrators demanding [Kumar's resignation](#) over concerns about the functioning of the Election Commission and its handling of the special intensive revision of electoral rolls.

Written by Anamika Pathak. Edited by Tanya Shrivastava and Sara Varghese.

Also read: [How TV channels covered the protests as 'anarchy' and ignored the detentions of journalists](#)

We welcome your comments at letters@scroll.in.

Gyanesh Kumar

Special Intensive Revision

Delhi Police



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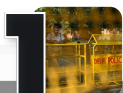
Jantar Mantar removed
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CEC protest: Mamata
Banerjee, Arvind Kejriwal
among Opposition
leaders detained

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Jantar Mantar removed as protest site



CEC protest: Mamata Banerjee
among Opposition leaders det

Express journalists detained by Delhi cops, released 12 km away

The police did not cite any specific legal provision or reason for detaining the journalists

By: [Express Web Desk](#) 3 min read Delhi Updated: Oct 12, 2026 07:38 AM IST



Three Indian Express journalists were detained by Delhi Police on Sunday (IE Hindi)

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Delhi Police detained three *Indian Express* Hindi journalists at Connaught Place on Sunday while they were reporting the developments of the second day of protests called by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP). Journalists Shashwat, Siya and Vijay Kumar, displayed their valid press cards, but were taken into detention and forced into buses by police personnel.

They were later released at Chhatrasal Stadium after around 45 minutes and nearly 12 kilometres away. The latest protests are against alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of

electoral rolls and demand the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

The police did not cite any specific legal provision or reason for detaining the journalists. The incident comes amid a wider crackdown on protesters in the national capital, where police detained around 7,000 people on October 10, including journalists, lawyers and civil society members.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW. [SUBSCRIBE TO SEE FEWER ADS.](#)



The journalists were making their way from Connaught Place towards the designated protest site of Jantar Mantar. “We came to know that AISA President Neha Bora was going to reach RK Ashram for a fresh round of protests. But there were several layers of barricading and police asked us to take multiple detours,” said Shashwat.

It was after taking once such detour that the trio reached Chelmsford Road and witnessed some student protesters being detained. While they tried to interact with the student protesters, the police allegedly pushed them forward and tried to detain them. Shashwat says they protested and pointed out they were journalists, but were still told to enter the bus and whisked off.

When can police detain people?

On October 2, Delhi Police imposed prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) across New Delhi. The provision empowers executive magistrates to issue urgent orders to prevent threats to public peace and safety, including restricting assemblies.

Disobeying such an order may attract action under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). However, police action cannot be arbitrary.

What rights do detained or arrested persons have?

Article 22 of the Constitution protects people against arbitrary arrest and detention. It generally requires that arrested persons be informed of the grounds of arrest, allowed to consult a lawyer and produced before a magistrate within 24 hours, excluding travel time.

Section 38 of the BNSS allows an arrested person to meet an advocate of their choice during interrogation, though not throughout it. In *DK Basu v State of West Bengal* (1997), the Supreme Court laid down safeguards including identification of arresting officers, preparation of an arrest memo and informing a relative or friend of the arrest.

What did the Supreme Court say on Sunday?

Hearing petitions challenging restrictions imposed amid the protests, the Supreme Court said detention must follow the procedure established by law, particularly in cases involving peaceful, unarmed assemblies outside areas covered by Section 163.

The bench of Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana directed authorities to review barricades, allow movement subject to traffic regulations and ensure uninterrupted internet services. Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta assured the court that journalists, lawyers and other professionals would not be impeded in performing their duties.

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Why Vijay's temple visit with Narendra Modi goes beyond routine protocol



Delhi Protest News Live Updates: Rahul Gandhi, Opposition MPs, Neha Bora...



Post

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**Dhanya Rajendran** ✓

@dhanyarajendran



Our colleague @NidhiSuresh_ was detained around 3 pm. She was taken in the same van as @neha_aisa. M The cops told the women they could leave around 6.30 pm, but the women are there demanding the men be released too

7:08 PM · Oct 11, 2026 · **29.2K** Views



34



458



1.3K



29

**Neeraj** @neerajapte007 · 19h

it is time to spend 5-6 days in jail to show the fall of press freedom in India and then come out and face a hero's welcome on release



11



794

**Sridhar Joshi** @brahmmajoshi · 21h

Any updates on Dharmasthala, Madam?



2



5



433

**Ravindrakumar A** ✓ @ARavindrakumar · 20h

Could you please send @Ahmedshabbir20 to cover delhi protest... Oh sorry! he is in the payroll of ... Let the owner decides...



1



5



926

**See all the replies**

Continue to X



165

See all the replies

Continue to X



Journalists from various reputed publications from across the country faced a brutal crackdown from the security personnel as reporters from The Hindu, Hindustan Times, The Indian Express, Reporter TV and independent news outlets like PeekTV were taken away. PeekTV co-founder Vedanta Agarwal reported on his platform how he and his cameraperson were dragged and shoved into detention vans, injuring his young colleague in the process. Three journalists from Indian Express Hindi were also taken away from the protest site in detention vehicles, while covering the protests. Reports also suggested that independent journalist Smita Sharma was also brutally dragged away by the cops on duty.

Digital media outlet The Red Mike's co-founder Saurabh Shukla also reported on a confrontation with the police, where he shows how security personnel were verifying his press ID badge and proceeded to take photographs of his ID card. Journalists from the publication Scroll.in even reported that few of their journalists were shoved and assaulted by Delhi Police personnel over the two days in Jantar Mantar. Videos circulating on social media even claim that special detention vehicles and buses have carried media personnel away from the protest site, including one reporter from PTI.

ANNEXURE - P31

NEWS / NEWS

Delhi Police beats and detains a Caravan journalist during CEC protests





THE CARAVAN

12 October, 2026

We're glad this article found its way to you. If you're not a subscriber, we'd love for you to consider subscribing—your support helps make this journalism possible. Either way, we hope you enjoy the read. Click to subscribe: [subscribing](#)

The Delhi Police detained and brutally beat up *The Caravan's* assistant multimedia producer, Ryan Thomas, on 11 October. Ryan was covering the protests against Gyanesh Kumar and SIR, which the government has tried to quash with an unprecedented police mobilisation in the capital, with multiple trains and metros halted, and with internet shut down across central Delhi. Earlier in the day, the Supreme Court had directed that, among other things, journalists “shall not be hindered in discharge of their professional duties in any manner whatsoever.”



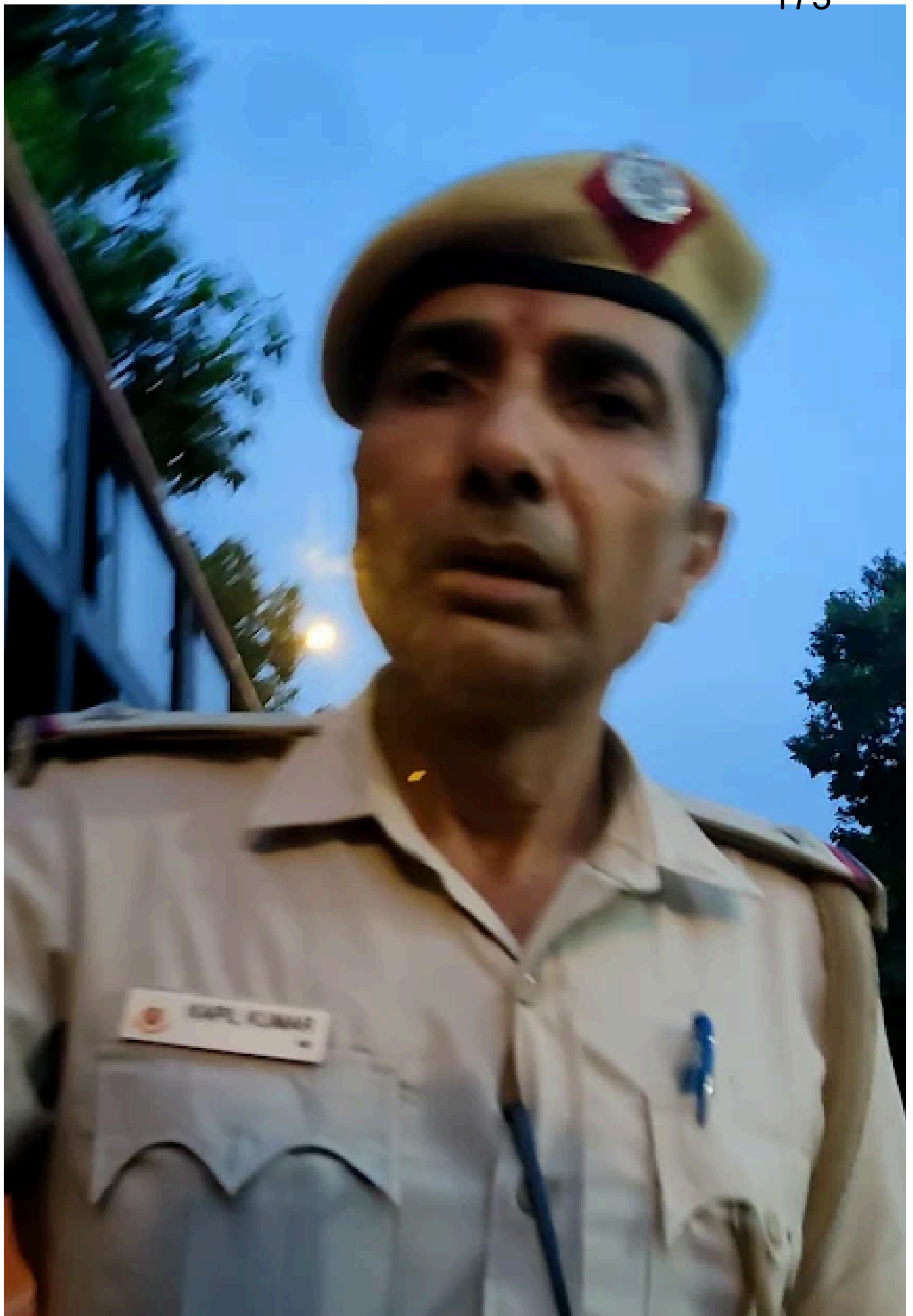
Around 6 pm, on Janpath Road, as the police were detaining protesters, Ryan started following and recording a video of a group of policemen taking an individual to a detention bus parked nearby. One of them, Assistant Sub-Inspector Kapil Kumar—who was, unlike the others, wearing a name tag—turned and asked Ryan, “*Tum kya kar rahe ho yeh*”—what are you doing? Suddenly, three cops rushed towards Ryan and began manhandling and hitting him, while dragging him to the detention bus. Ryan repeatedly told them he is a journalist, and his press card was hanging from his neck via a lanyard and visibly displayed.

Inside the bus, five police (two more had come into the bus by then) hit Ryan on the head multiple times and tried to snatch his phone. They tried to force him to delete the images he had recorded. When he refused, stating that he was willing to cooperate with them but would not give up his phone or camera, they intensified the beating. They tried to break his camera and goaded him. One of them said, “*Camera se zyada deshbhakti aa raha hai logon main aajkal*”—people are feeling a bit too much nationalism because of cameras these days.

A few minutes later, about two other policemen came into the bus. They began saying “*Isko doosri gadi mein le chalte hain. Isko doosri jagah le ke jaenge, kyunki ye samajh nahin raha hai*”—Let’s take him elsewhere, in a different vehicle, since he is not quite getting it. Kapil Kumar handed Ryan over to these policemen. As he was being taken out of the bus, Ryan asked the two officials not to hit him, since he was cooperating with them. At that point, one of them slapped him hard on the face.

Ryan was pushed into a police car where the detainee he had been trying to record was sitting, along with three other police officials. These officials asked Ryan his name. When they heard it, they slapped him. They asked him his father’s name, and again slapped him upon hearing his answer. Again, they asked him to delete footage from his phone and hand it over. When he refused, a policeman prodded him in the stomach with the butt of his gun. At one point, a policeman pointed to a scar on his own hand and tried to insist to Ryan, “You have done this.”

Finally, the vehicle arrived at the G Block of Connaught Place, where police and paramilitary personnel were shoving more protesters into detention buses. The police threatened to put Ryan in a bus but finally let him go.





Ryan reached the emergency room at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital at 7pm, with three colleagues from *The Caravan*. Upon reaching, he clearly told the RML staff that the police had beat him up while he was reporting on the protests and that he wanted a medico-legal certificate. He repeated the same to the police, as a part of the MLC proceedings. The doctors examined him and ordered some tests, including a CT scan. Once the tests were done, after more than three hours, Ryan was shown the MLC. Under the heading of “Gist of incident as stated by the injured/accompanying person,” there was a sub heading of “Alleged history.” The authorities had written “injury during protest on 11 oct 26 at 6.30pm cannaught place, c /o headache.” They did not mention that the police had caused the injury. When he, and our other staffers, insisted that this fact be mentioned in the MLC, the authorities refused and asked them to meet the medical superintendent the next day if they wished.

Main Report

MedLEaPR - DELHI
ABVIMS AND DR RML HOSPITAL

BARA KHARAK SINGH MARG, NEAR GURUDWARA BANGLA SAHIB, NEW DELHI DELHI 110001

FORM-II

MEDICAL LEGAL REPORT- INJURY

(Pending Freeze)

MLR No(Generated by Software):- M18030832606590

MLR No(Given by Doctor):- 271698

Dr. Charu Navneet P.D.
PG Resident
Dept. of General Surgery
ABVIMS and Dr. RML Hospital
New Delhi-110001

Date:- 11/10/2026

Date:- 11/10/2026

CONSENT FORM IS TAKEN SEPARATELY BEFORE EXAMINATION WHICH IS ATTACHED WITH MLR REPORT.

Details of Doctor/Doctors who examined the patient:

Sr No.	Doctor's Name	Designation	Registration No. with State Council/MCI
1	Shreyas B L	Medical and Health officer	118901
2	Dr Mohd Zeeshan	Senior Resident	33436

Victim Details:

Sh./Smt/Miss Mr. ryan thomas
 Relative Name (Father) [REDACTED]
 Age (Approx) 26 Years 0 Months 0 Days
 Sex MALE
 Marital Status UNKNOWN
 Occupation Journalist/ media employee
 Nationality Indian
 Address [REDACTED]
 State DELHI
 District NEW DELHI
 Police Station CONNAUGHT PLACE
 Arrival Date & Time (in hrs) 11/10/2026 07:30 PM
 Examination Start Date & Time (in hrs) 11/10/2026 07:30 PM
 Place of Examination EMERGENCY

Person Accompanied Detail: Yes

Sr No.	Name	Address	Relation with Patient	Police Station, District, State	Signature
1	[REDACTED]	delhi	Friend	CONNAUGHT PLACE, NEW DELHI, DELHI	

RSA Case: No

Marks of Identification

Sr No.	Identification Details
1	scar over left frontal region

In case of Hospital death : No

OPD Detail	2578873
OPD No.	
Referred To (In case of referral cases)	dr md zeeshan surgery sr

आ और उपचार के लिए
GENERAL CONSENT

Ata

पंजीकरण कार्ड / R

Provisional Diagnosis

Gist of incident as stated by the injured/accompanying person	
Alleged History	Injury during protest on 11 oct 26 at 6 30 pm at cannaught place , c/o headache .
General condition of the person, clothing etc.	
General Condition	Hemodynamically stable. BP 112/70 mmHg. Pulse 74 per minute. SpO2 98% on room air. Normal gait. Normal speech. Conscious and oriented to time, place and person. S1 and S2 present. Bilateral chest air entry clear and equal. Abdomen - soft and non-tender.

Injury Details: Yes

sno	Injury Details	Marked	Injury Number
1	tenderness present over right frontotemporal region	No	1

Nature of Injuries (Simple, Grievous, Dangerous or pending for observation)	pending
Probable Duration of Injury	pending
Kind of Weapon Used (Sharp, Blunt, Firearm, Fire, Poison etc)	blunt
Opinion Fit or Unfit for Statement	fit at the time of examination

Details of Doctor's who examined the patient with signature:				
SrNo.	Doctor's Name	Designation	Registration Details	Signature
1	Dr Mohd Zeeshan	Senior Resident	33436	
2	Shreyas B L	Medical and Health officer	118901	

DR. SHREYAS B.L.
M.S. (Ortho). DNB (Ortho).
MNAMS. DIP. Sports Med (FIFA).
Medical Officer
ABVIMS & Dr RML Hospital
(Name, Designation, Date and Signature of Receiving Person)

ABVIMS and Dr RML Hospital Baba Khark Singh Marg, Near Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, New Delhi Delhi 110001
DELHI

The Caravan reached out to Rajeev Ranjan, the Delhi Police public-relations officer, and Sachin Sharma, the deputy commissioner of police for

the New Delhi district, but did not receive a response.

Thanks for reading till the end. If you valued this piece, and you're already a subscriber, consider contributing to keep us afloat—so more readers can access work like this. Click to make a contribution: [Contribute](#)

THE CARAVAN

Was grabbed by neck, pinned to a seat and choked, says MP John Brittas

A video later shared by CPI(M) showed Brittas lying on the steps of a bus and panting, with another person assisting him.

Written by: [Drishti Jain](#), [Liz Mathew](#), [Asad Rehman](#) 4 min read New Delhi Updated: Oct 12, 2026 04:56 AM IST



CPI(M)'s Rajya Sabha member John Brittas being detained at Connaught Place in New Delhi on Sunday. (Express photo by Gajendra Yadav)

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CPI(M) Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas was [detained and allegedly manhandled by security personnel](#) at Connaught Place on Sunday afternoon, with the MP alleging that he was grabbed

by the neck, pinned down to a seat inside a bus and choked before being taken to RML Hospital for treatment.

Brittas was speaking to mediapersons a few metres away from a group of protesters when personnel from the Rapid Action Force and Delhi Police detained him.

“I had gone to Connaught Place after getting information that some student leaders had been detained. I was standing on the road and talking to some journalists when CRPF men forcefully detained me and threw me in a bus. They pinned me to a seat after grabbing me by the neck and choked me. It was only after a Delhi Police DCP’s intervention that I was allowed to go,” he told *The Indian Express*.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW. [SUBSCRIBE TO SEE FEWER ADS.](#)



Read | Assaulted in police vehicle, abandoned on wayside: John Brittas writes to President

“I had been telling the CRPF men that I am an MP. But they didn’t listen and assaulted me,” he said.

A video later shared by CPI(M) showed Brittas lying on the steps of a bus and panting, with another person assisting him. “While in the van, DCP Sachin Sharma was calling on my mobile. He seemed to have found out that I was taken away. There was this boy from Jharkhand, Sajith, with me. He helped me take the phone call,” the MP said.

“We will be here, until our last breath. No matter what the Delhi Police does, we will be here until our last breath!”

#GyaneshMustResign <https://t.co/6NyYtyEtgJ>

— John Brittas (@JohnBrittas) [October 11, 2026](#)

The DCP was heard directing personnel to release him, Brittas said. “They seemed to have realised the seriousness,” he said, adding that Delhi Police personnel subsequently tried to drop him at an unfamiliar location. “I was about to collapse. They put me in an auto and I somehow could recollect that my car was parked in CP. Then my driver and the CPM general secretary came and took me to RML,” he said.

The detention took place amid a crackdown on student groups and Left activists protesting against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. The protest was scheduled for 10 am, following a call by AISA national president Neha.

A senior police officer said that Brittas was detained after he refused to move from the area despite repeated requests. “His allegations of assault inside the police van will be investigated,” the officer added.

The incident took place when Brittas, who was surrounded by cameras as he spoke to journalists, criticised the police action. “Whatever the Delhi Police is saying and doing is against the pronouncements of the Supreme Court... Delhi Police cannot become a state. The state has become Delhi police now... students are being trashed...,” he said. “In a Capital city, four or more people cannot come together; they can be thrashed and detained. Is this democracy... Internet shutdown... is also being denied. Every protesters face is being covered by the police with their camera... So, I would say absolutely it is anarchy,” he added.

Following the incident, Brittas wrote to the President, the Chairman of the [Rajya Sabha](#) and the Chief Justice of India, seeking urgent intervention, accountability and an independent investigation.

CPI(M) condemned the action, alleging that Brittas had been brutally attacked by the Delhi Police. “He was later dropped by the roadside, visibly injured and in distress. Delhi Police has

crossed all limits!,” it posted on X.

Several other Left leaders, including CPI(M) general secretary M A Baby, Brinda Karat, M V Govindan, P K Sreemathy and P Rajeev, were also detained on Sunday. CPI national secretary Annie Raja was also detained along with activists of the All India Students’ Federation and the All India Youth Federation who were marching towards Jantar Mantar.

“The Communist Party of India strongly condemns the brutal manhandling and detention CPI National Secretary of Annie Raja and police brutality against AISF-AIYF activists who were peacefully marching towards Jantar Mantar...,” CPI said in a statement.

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Delhi Protest News Live Updates: Rahul Gandhi, Opposition MPs, Neha Bora...

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Women Activists Manhandled, Detained After Sunset, Carried Away in Bus Without Women Cops, Say SFI

 <https://m.thewire.in/article/government/women-activists-manhandled-detained-after-sunset-carried-away-in-bus-without-women-cops-say-sfi>

The Wire Staff

October 11, 2026



Screengrabs from videos showing the detention of the SFI women.

New Delhi: As many as 22 women activists from Left students' party Students' Federation of India who took out a tricolour rally in Connaught Place were illegally detained by Delhi Police, reporters on the ground and the SFI have said.

Earlier in the day today – day two of citizens' attempts to reach Jantar Mantar amidst brutal suppression by the Delhi Police – the Rajiv Chowk and Connaught Place area saw men claiming to be affiliated to Hindutva groups

physically charge at, intimidate and rampage against protesters and journalists in the area.

RSS-BJP Supporters Target Peaceful Protesters

The Wire



Watch on

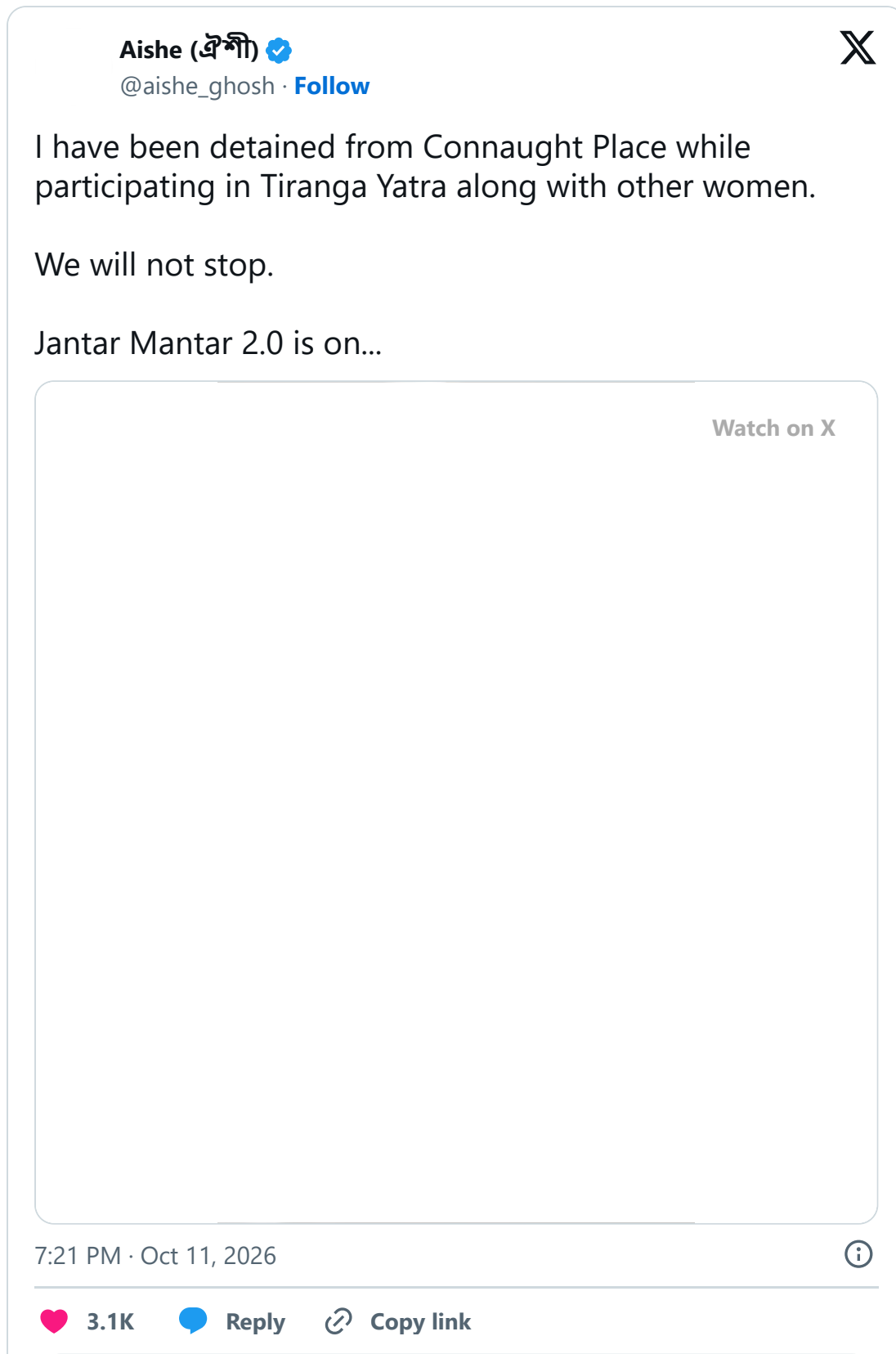
A tricolour rally was organised by the SFI at Connaught Place to protest against the violence against minors and women journalists by Hindutva goons – footage that went viral a day ago – and the brutal violence that Delhi Police has been subjecting peaceful protestors to.

Despite a Supreme Court directive against the detention of peaceful women activists, many were picked up and detained from this rally despite Section 43(5) of the BNSS, which renders arresting or detaining women after sunset illegal.

"Not only were these women activists manhandled by male police officers but they were also slapped in the face while being detained," the SFI has said in a statement.

This, it noted, is a violation of Section 46(1) of BNSS which states that only female police officers can physically handle, search or detain a woman.

SFI leader Aishe Ghosh who was supposed to have come on as a guest at a show of The Wire was detained and posted on X, "I have been detained from Connaught Place while participating in Tiranga Yatra along with other women. We will not stop. Jantar Mantar 2.0 is on...," she wrote.



The detention bus also had no lights and no presence of women police officers, which SFI noted is mandated by the ruling in *Sheela Barse v.s. State of Maharashtra*.

Women protesting against the police action on female demonstrators were forcibly removed. The detention bus had no lights, while male police officers surrounded the women activists.

#VoteChori #ECI #India <https://t.co/0QoGPE3XvF>

— The Wire (@thewire_in) [October 11, 2026](#)

'Every inch of Connaught Place has been locked down,' reporter Tarun Sahu said live from the site us during The Wire's live show.

This article went live on October eleventh, two thousand twenty six, at twelve minutes past nine at night.

The Wire is now on WhatsApp. [Follow our channel](#) for sharp analysis and opinions on the latest developments.



DeKoder ✓
@DeKoderAI

ANNEXURE - P34

...

A woman journalist covering the Delhi protests is taken away by Delhi Police despite repeatedly identifying herself as a member of the media. In this DeKoder ground report, the reporter describes how the journalist was recording the protest when police personnel detained her and took her towards a detention bus.

According to the eyewitness account, she had her press card, microphone and identification ready, but officers did not heed her explanation. The journalist had reportedly been covering the demonstrations since the first day.

The incident comes amid questions over police action against media personnel during the protests, particularly following the Supreme Court's October 11 hearing, in which the Court recorded an assurance that journalists and other professionals would not be obstructed in performing their duties.

Watch the incident captured on the ground. Follow DeKoder for more.

[#DelhiProtest](#) [#Protest](#) [#DelhiPolice](#) [#Journalist](#) [#JantarMantar](#)



See all the replies

5:

—

⌂

[Continue to X](#)



ANNEXURE - P35

Post

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**Ankit Mayank** ✓

@mr_mayank

...

Popular independent journalist Pragya Mishra (Ulta Chasma) also dragged and detained by Delhi Police

Looks like they are using protest as a cover to threaten and torture brave independent voices

Will female anchors like Anjana & Rubika dare to speak?



5:33 PM · Oct 11, 2026 · **6,096** Views

15

270

675

15

**Anil Thomas** @advanitom · 21h

...

In mother of democracy, only godi journalist have right to report.



2

32

**Aby Chacko Mlakuzhiyil** @AbyChackoNgp · 22h

...

**Aby Chacko Mlakuzhiyil** @AbyChackoNgp · 22h

Vow great optics for @DelhiPolice

What shame that they have chosen to be the slaves of their political masters!

See all the replies

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ANNEXURE - P36 Post

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**Pragya Mishra** ✓

@PragyaLive


[Show translation](#)

Peek Tv की पत्रकार साथी को मेरे सामने जबरन कनॉट प्लेस पर डीटेन करने की कोशिश दिल्ली पुलिस कर रही थी...मुझसे जो हो पाया मैंने किया...इस पूरी कवरेज में महिला पत्रकारों की बड़ी भूमिका है...बेटी बचाव वाली सरकार बेटियों को जानबूझकर अपमानित कर रही है...डेमोक्रेसी के स्वतंत्र चौथे स्तंभ को खत्म करने की कोशिश कर रही है...पालतू पत्रकारिता का पोषण जारी रखे रहना चाहती है...



11:26 PM · Oct 11, 2026 · 61.4K Views

158

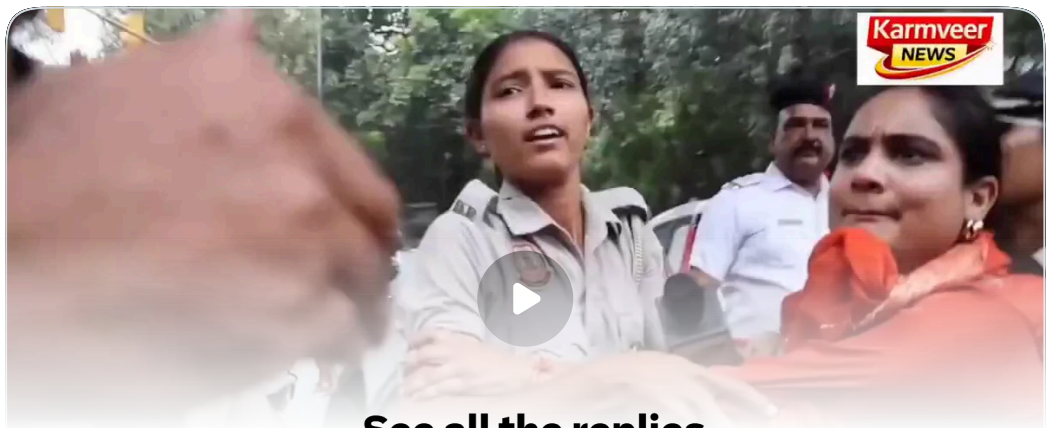
1.8K

5K

108

**Keshav Shandilya** @keshav_shashi · 17h

bura kiya


[See all the replies](#)

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Anti-CEC protests continue; journalists detained despite SC order, Rahul Gandhi announces march to Supreme Court as Delhi braces for fresh curbs

Restrictions likely to return as Congress leader Rahul Gandhi appeals to all to join INDIA bloc march to the Supreme Court; epicentre of protest shifts from Jantar Mantar to Connaught Place

Updated – October 12, 2026 06:44 am IST – NEW DELHI

LAVPREET KAUR, NIKHIL M BABU



Heavy security deployment at the Inner Circle of Connaught Place as Workers of SFI, AISF and AIYF hold a protest march against CEC Gyanesh Kumar on October 11, 2026 | Photo Credit: ANI

Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas and All India Students' Association president Neha were among several protestors allegedly injured by security forces as they were being detained in the capital on Sunday (October 11, 2026), the second day of a

protest called by youth organisations demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Despite the Supreme Court's directives on Saturday (October 10), around a dozen journalists were detained on Sunday (October 11) while covering the protest at different locations. There was no official announcement by Delhi Police on the total number of detentions on Sunday.

In Case You Missed It



Anti-CEC
protest: BKU
joins stir,
warns again...



U.S. Senators
question
legality of
Trump's...



Doctor who
treated Nana
Patekar pens a
heartfelt...



Rahul urges
citizens to join
INDIA bloc
march to...



SFLC.in ✓
@SFLCin



We have recorded 50 instances of journalists being detained while reporting on the protests.

Despite the Supreme Court order that "Lawyers, journalists and other professionals shall not be hindered in the discharge of their professional duties in any manner whatsoever," the Delhi Police has continued to detain journalists reporting from the ground.

[SFLC.in](#) condemns this act of contempt of court and attack on press freedom. Journalists must be able to report on the ground without fear of detention or intimidation.

Access [SFLC.in](#)'s record of journalists detained while doing their job here: docs.google.com/document/d/1Ua...

This list is non-exhaustive, and we're working to add more information about these cases. Help us document more of these instances. If you or a colleague were detained while reporting, tag [SFLC.in](#) or DM us. Every report matters in holding authorities accountable.

[#pressfreedom](#) [#freespeech](#) [#FoE](#) [#censorship](#)

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8:01 PM · Oct 11, 2026 · **1,135** Views



1



20



25



4



/A/ @ThatRedDevil · 19h
[@dhanyarajendran](#) fyi



11 10



[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]



[Redacted text]

‘Jantar Mantar no longer protest site’: Delhi Police; CJP responds

The new venues are Ramlila Maidan in Central Delhi, Burari Ground in the northwest and CBD Ground in East Delhi.

Written by: [Sakshi Chand](#), [Alok Singh](#) 5 min read Updated: Oct 12, 2026 04:43 PM IST



Police detain protesters during a demonstration demanding the resignation of the country's election chief Gyanesh Kumar, at Connaught Place in Delhi on Sunday, (Express Photo by Gajendra Yadav)

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[Jantar Mantar](#) in Delhi is no longer a designated protest site. [Delhi Police](#) on Monday said three other venues – the Ramlila, Burari, and CBD grounds – will now play that role. The [Cockroach Janta Party](#)’s reply was emphatic; “*Ab poora desh Jantar Mantar ban raha he.*”

The order came as the Congress-led INDIA opposition bloc, the [Abhijeet Dipke](#)-founded Cockroach Janta Party, and the [Neha Bora](#)-led All India Students’ Association fight to be allowed to protest at

Jantar Mantar. The cause – demanding Chief Election Commissioner [Gyanesh Kumar](#) resign over alleged irregularities related to the Special Intensive Revision.

The CJP-AISA push over the weekend – to march to Jantar Mantar and protest there – were met with a siege-like crackdown by Delhi Police that included barricading of roads, temporary blocking of mobile internet services and Metro stations, and deployment of thousands of cops and paramilitary personnel. In addition, over 7,500 people were detained, with claims police used excessive force – including assaulting women – to break protests.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW. [SUBSCRIBE TO SEE FEWER ADS.](#)



Shortly before Delhi Police chief Anurag Kumar's X post announcing the new protest venues, CJP leaders met the cops to push for permission to protest at Jantar Mantar. In a letter then released to the press, the pressure group said the police's 'refusal to allocate' the site 'caused a lot of distress and discontentment among the people of our country'.

The CJP later called the move to de-legitimise protests at Jantar Mantar 'unacceptable' and an 'assault on people's fundamental right to protest and peaceful assembly'.

Where are 3 venues that replace Jantar Mantar as designated protest site

The three are spread across Delhi and take protests (and protesters) away from the central administrative area around Parliament, and have been seen as reducing the impact of rallies.

The closest – Ramlila Ground – is still three kilometres from Parliament, while the CBD Ground is nearly 26km away. The Burari Ground in northwest Delhi is 16km away.

Of the three, the Ramlila Ground does have a history of hosting political rallies and public demonstrations, including independence activist and political leader Jayaprakash Narayan's rally in 1975 and the anti-corruption movement led by Anna Hazare in 2011.



Ramlila Maidan, the alternative site earmarked for dissent in the capita.

The order issued by Anurag Kumar also revised standard protocol governing protests, including procedure for seeking permission, which will be issued separately for each of the three grounds.

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The order also said the Ministry of Home Affairs had set up a committee to examine alternative venues for protests and this arrangement followed its recommendations.

‘Modi scared of Jantar Mantar’

“Unacceptable. Why is Narendra Modi scared of Jantar Mantar? It belongs to the people of India. Did the Ministry of Home Affairs consult the people of India when taking this decision,” co-convenor Saurav Das asked. “Were stakeholders, organisations consulted?”

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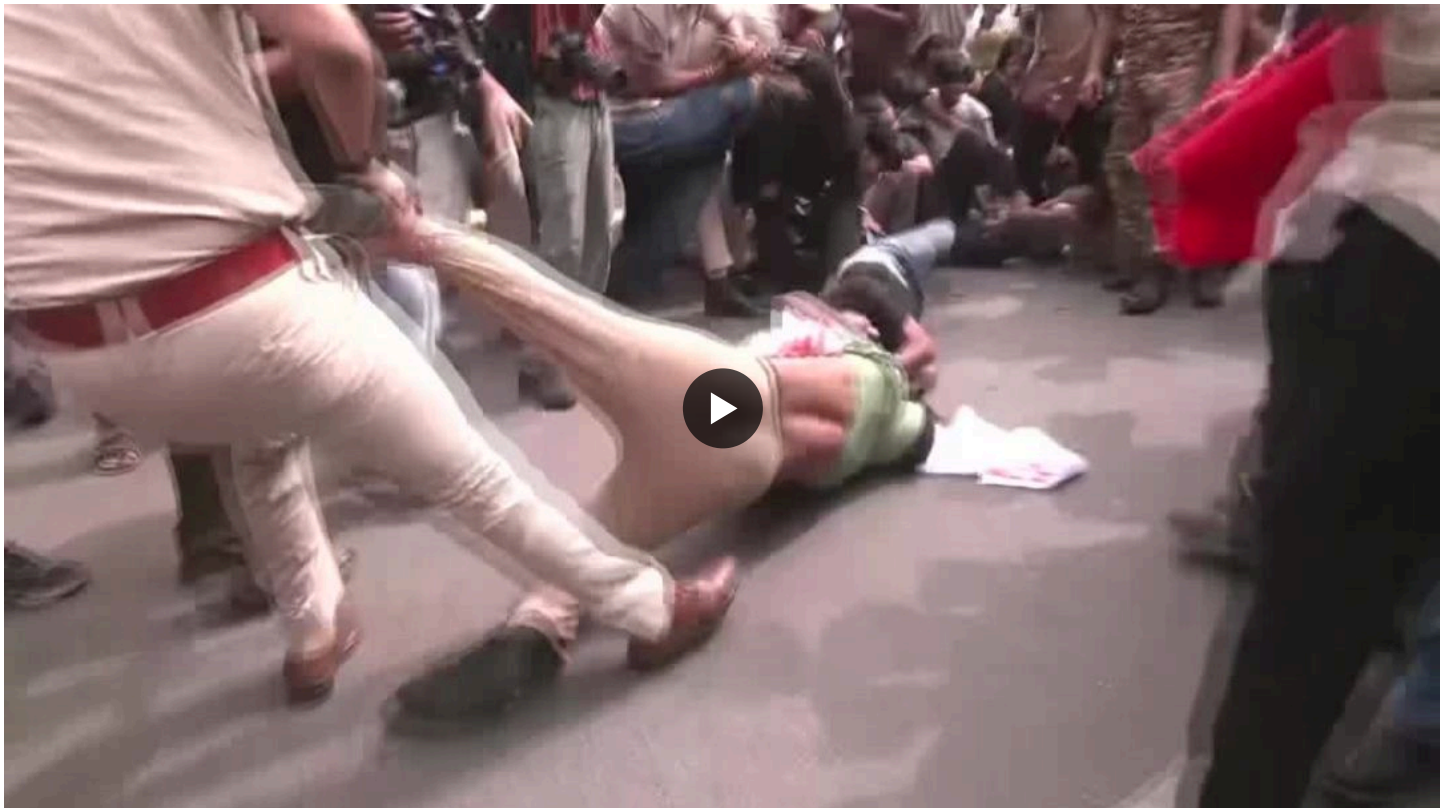
Das warned reporters: “... (like) they are denotifying the people’s Jantar Mantar, the Prime Minister will soon denotify democracy in India. This move is a step towards that. We do not accept this

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India opposition parties march to Supreme Court against election chief

By Sarita Chaganti Singh, Saurabh Sharma and Sakshi Dayal

October 12, 2026 10:33 AM GMT+5:30 · Updated 24 mins ago



Summary

- Hundreds march to Supreme Court in protest
- Metro stations closed for 10 hours, traffic restrictions imposed in New Delhi
- Police designate three new sites for protests
- BJP says rally is opposition Congress's attempt to seize power

NEW DELHI, Oct 12 (Reuters) - Hundreds of opposition party demonstrators marched to India's Supreme Court on Monday to protest the removal of millions of names from [voter lists](#) that has sparked days of unrest in the Indian capital and challenged Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Opposition parties and supporters of the "cockroach" youth movement have taken to the streets almost daily this month to demand the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner [Gyanesh Kumar](#) over the revision that critics say benefits Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

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The change that started last year led to over 130 million names – more than the population of Japan – being struck from voter lists, including 28 million who had died, 63 million who had relocated, and 30 million who could not be traced.

Police [detained thousands of protesters](#) over the weekend, including leaders of the 'Cockroach Janta Party' (CJP), as supporters of the youth movement sought to march in protest and were stopped by thousands of security personnel who locked down central Delhi.

The Election Commission has denied favouring any party and said wrongly deleted voters can re-enrol, while the BJP has accused its rivals of trying to undermine the country's democracy by wrongly questioning legitimate electoral processes.

Opposition parties are marching to the Supreme Court to file a petition over the voter list revision after Chief Justice Surya Kant declined their request for a meeting.

Kant said the issues were already before the court and discussing pending cases would violate judicial ethics and propriety, and suggested the opposition file a petition instead.

Hundreds of people, including opposition party members and [left-wing student groups](#), marched to the court on Monday, while leaders travelled by bus.

"The fundamental values of this country are being assaulted, institutions are losing their independence...I am here to protest against this assault," said Anirudh Siyag, a PhD student who joined the protest.

Authorities closed six metro stations for 10 hours and restricted traffic along over 20 stretches in anticipation of the demonstration.



[1/7] Congress leader and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi waves to supporters as opposition parties march to the Supreme Court to protest a controversial revision of voter lists that has sparked days... [Purchase Licensing Rights](#)  [Read more](#)



Hundreds of security personnel in anti-riot gear were also deployed in central Delhi, with key roads barricaded and water cannons on standby.

NEW SITES FOR PROTESTS

The BJP said the protests were the main opposition Congress party's attempt to seize power.

"By discrediting constitutional institutions, spreading chaos and riots on the streets, and attacking people in the name of politics, all it seeks is a return to power," Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan told reporters.

Delhi Police announced that Jantar Mantar in the central business district was no longer designated as an official protest site and three new venues had been identified, according to an official order seen by Reuters.

CJP supporters had staged a sit-in for weeks earlier this year at Jantar Mantar, a historic observatory and a well-known protest site for decades, to force Education Minister Dharmendra [Pradhan to quit](#) over exam paper leaks.

Separately, CJP leaders met Delhi Police to "demand" a date for a peaceful protest, threatening to announce a new protest call if a date is not given within 24 hours.

The youth movement, which has [mobilised protests](#) in recent months against issues ranging from government school infrastructure to jobs, is one of the biggest political challenges to Modi and his BJP in his 12 years in power.

The protests erupted after the Indian Express newspaper reported last month that Kumar's two deputies raised several concerns internally about voter list revisions, registration procedures and digital systems.

Opposition parties allege Muslim voters and other minorities, who are unlikely to support the Hindu nationalist ruling party, are disproportionately affected by the deletions – charges both the poll panel and BJP reject.

Reporting by Sakshi Dayal, Saurabh Sharma, Sarita Chaganti Singh and Arpan Chaturvedi; Editing by YP Rajesh and Saad Sayeed

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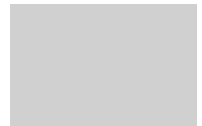
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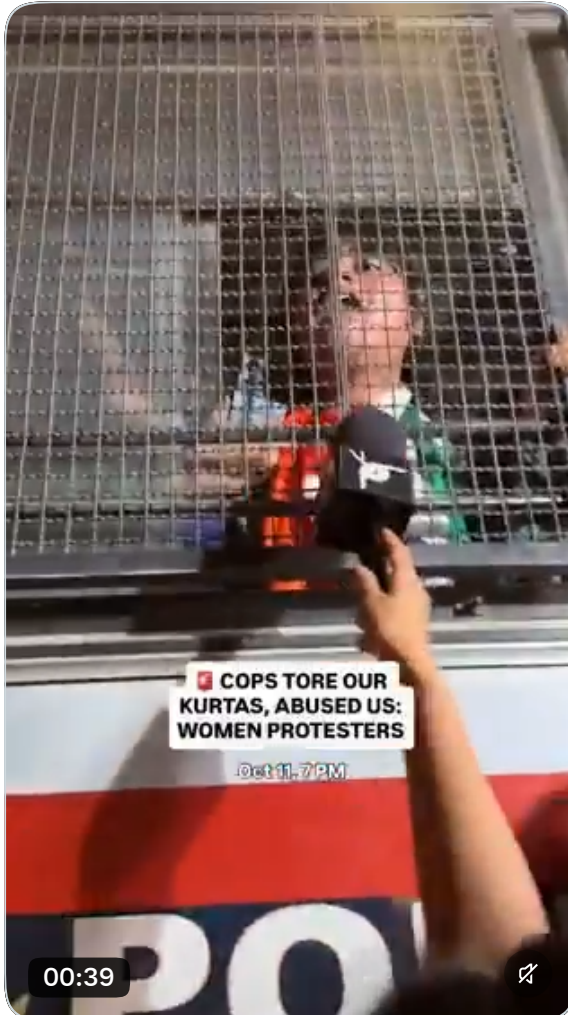
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[#PeekOnGround](#): Several women journalists accused the Delhi Police of abusing them, slapping them, tearing their clothes, and pulling them by their hair while detaining them from Delhi's Connaught Place on Sunday.

11:59 AM · Oct 12, 2026 · **2,949** Views

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**Rohit Singh** @1925Rohit · 2h

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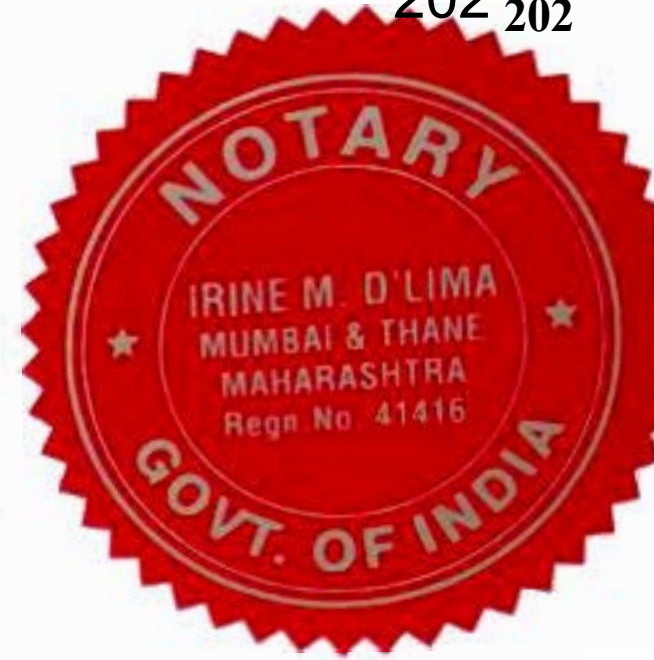
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Advocate or the Petitioner
CODE 2547

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL WRIT JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) DIARY NO 63560 OF 2026



IN THE MATTER OF:

FREE SPEECH COLLECTIVE

...PETITIONER

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

...RESPONDENTS

VAKALATNAMA OF PETITIONER

I, Geeta Seshu, D/o V.R. Seshu, aged 62 years, R/o 42/52, Varan, Carter Rd, Bandra West Mumbai - 400 050 the Representative of the Petitioner in the above-mentioned matter, do hereby appoint and retain: **AARTHI RAJAN**, AOR of the Supreme Court of India to act and appear for me/us in the above mentioned Contempt Petition/ and on my/our behalf, to conduct and prosecute (or defend) the same and all proceedings that may be taken in respect of any application connected with the same or any decree or order passed therein, including proceedings in Taxation and application for Review, to file and obtain return documents and to deposit and receive money on my/our behalf in the said Petition/Appeal and in application for Review to Represent me/us and to take all necessary steps on my/our behalf in the above matter. I/we agree to ratify all acts done by the aforesaid advocates in pursuance of this authority.

Accepted: Identified, Certified & Satisfied

Dated: 12-10-2026

Aarthi Rajan

AARTHI RAJAN
Advocate on Record
CODE: 2547

Geeta Seshu
PETITIONER
BEFORE ME
Irine M. D'Lima

MEMO OF APPEARANCE

To,
The Registrar
Supreme Court of India,
New Delhi 110001

IRINE M. D'LIMA
ADVOCATE & NOTARY
203, Dunhill Dome, St. John Road
Bandra (W), Mumbai - 400 050
Regn. No. 41416

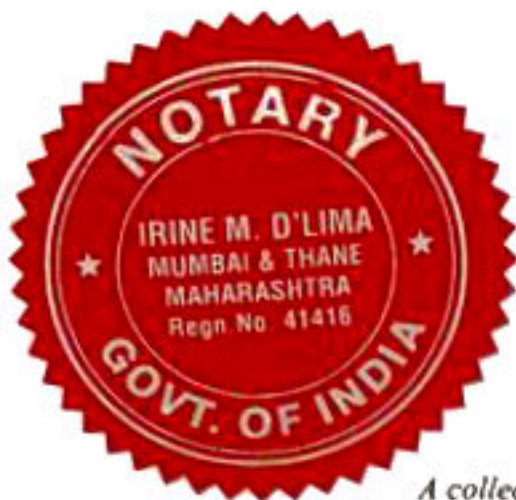
Sir, please enter my appearance on behalf of Petitioner in the above manner.

Dated 12.10.2026
6 NEW DELHI

Aarthi Rajan
AARTHI RAJAN
Advocate on Record
CODE: 2547



NOTED & REGISTERED
Page No.: 41 (CRP-C)
Sr. No.: 1224 at 2 OCT 2026



A collective of journalists, activists, lawyers and academics, founded 2018

E-mail: freespeechcollectiveindia@gmail.com | Website: www.freespeechcollective.in

12.10.2026

TO WHOMSOEVER IT CONCERNS

Certified Copy of Resolution

It was resolved by the Members of the Free Speech Collective by circulation on 11.10.2026 as follows:

"Resolved to authorise Ms. Geeta Seshu, Founder Member, Free Speech Collective, to sign, verify and swear petitions, affidavits, applications, vakalatnamas and any other pleadings or documents on behalf of the Free Speech Collective; to institute and prosecute the Writ Petition (Civil) under Article 32 of the Constitution of India and the Contempt Petition (Civil) together with all interlocutory applications therein; to engage and instruct counsel and Advocate-on-Record; and to do all acts necessary for the said purposes in all proceedings, including connected, consequential and appellate proceedings before the Supreme Court of India, as the said proceedings raise questions of exceptional public importance regarding the freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a), and the protection of lawyers, journalists and other professionals against hindrance in the discharge of their professional duties."

Sincerely yours,

TRUE COPY

geeta seshu

IRINE M. D'LIMA
ADVOCATE & NOTARY
203, Dunhill Dome, St. John Road
Bandra (W), Mumbai - 400 050.
Regn. No. 41416

Malini

(Malini Subramaniam)

Core Member, Free Speech Collective

FREE SPEECH COLLECTIVE

