

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL INHERENT JURISDICTION
CONTEMPT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. OF 2026
IN
WRIT PETITION (CRL.) NO. 280 OF 2026

IN THE MATTER OF:

FREE SPEECH COLLECTIVE

...PETITIONER

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA AND ORS.

...RESPONDENTS

ADVOCATE'S CHECK-LIST

1.	Contempt Petition (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 Contempt Petition (C) 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 SLP against the order passed in Second Appeal, copies of the orders passed by the Trial Court and First Appellate Court have been filed.	NA
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:	
	(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;	NA
	(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 Petitioner, 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
Advocate for the Petitioner
CODE 2547

AARTHI RAJAN

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Place: New Delhi
Date: 12.10.2026

Filed By:

Aarthi Rajan

AARTHI RAJAN

Advocate for the Petitioner
CODE 2547

PROFORMA FOR FIRST LISTING IN
THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

SECTION: -

The case pertains to (Please tick/check the correct box):-		
(a)	Central Act: (Title)	The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971
(b)	Section	Section 12
(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)	11.10.2026
(k)	High court: (Name)	Supreme Court of India
(l)	Names of judges	1)
(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:	
	(b) Sub classification	
5.	Not to be listed before	NA
6.	(a) Similar disposed of matter with citation, if any, & case details:	No similar disposed of matter
	(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:-	NA
	(a) Whether accused/ convict has surrendered:	NA
	(b) FIR No./Complaint No. Date:	NA
	(c) Police station	NA
	(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	NA
	(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 mater):	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 for the Petitioner
CODE 2547

SYNOPSIS

The present Contempt Petition concerns wilful post-order disobedience and violation of paragraph 16(f) of the order dated 11.10.2026 passed by this Hon'ble Court in Contempt Petition (Civil) Diary No. 63801 of 2026, arising out of Writ Petition (Civil) Diary No. 63560 of 2026. Upon the assurance of the Ld. Solicitor General, this Hon'ble Court had directed that lawyers, journalists and other professionals "*shall not be hindered in discharge of their professional duties in any manner whatsoever*".

Notwithstanding the aforesaid direction, Delhi Police personnel thereafter detained, removed and otherwise obstructed journalists reporting from R.K. Ashram Marg, Connaught Place and other locations across Delhi.

Contemporaneous reports record numerous incidents involving journalists associated with The News Minute, The Hindu, The Indian Express (Hindi), Peek TV and PTI. Such reports include the account of a PTI photojournalist that police personnel dragged journalists by their necks and forced them into a police vehicle despite their insistence that they were journalists and display of press identification and cameras. The material further records journalists being physically assaulted, forcibly lifted or carried into buses, detained while engaged in reporting, and prevented from documenting police action. Several incidents involved journalists repeatedly identifying themselves as members of the press and displaying press credentials, yet nevertheless

being subjected to detention, removal or the use of physical force by a number of police personnel who were not wearing name tags or other visible means of identification, thereby impeding accountability and the identification of the officers responsible.

Contemporaneous reports record incidents involving journalists associated with The News Minute, The Hindu, The Indian Express (Hindi), Peek TV and PTI, including a [PTI photojournalist's account that police personnel dragged journalists by their necks into a police van despite their displaying press identification and cameras](#), as well as reported physical assault and forcible removal of other journalists into police buses.

The Petitioner, a representative association of journalists, accordingly, invokes the contempt jurisdiction of this Hon'ble Court seeking enforcement of paragraph 16(f), disclosure of the manner in which the said direction was communicated to deployed police personnel, identification of the officers responsible for the post-order detentions and removals, preservation of the relevant records, and initiation of appropriate proceedings for wilful disobedience.

Hence, the present Contempt Petition.

LIST OF DATES AND EVENTS

DATE	EVENTS
09.10.2026	Aggrieved by the restrictions imposed upon Metro and railway services in anticipation of the proposed protest, the Petitioner therein approached this Hon'ble Court in W.P.(C) Diary No.63560/2026, <i>M.A. Baby v. Union of India & Ors.</i> This Hon'ble Court found the proposed complete prohibition upon essential public transport to be overreaching, distinguished between regulation and prohibition, and clarified that there shall be no outright prohibition upon Metro services. The alleged non-compliance with the said order thereafter led to Contempt Petition (Civil) Diary No.63801/2026. This Hon'ble Court, in Writ Petition (Civil) Diary No. 63560/2026, directed that Metro and railway services may be regulated but not subjected to outright prohibition, and directed filing of a compliance report within four days.
10.10.2026	ALLEGED NON-COMPLIANCE AND DETENTIONS Notwithstanding the order dated 09.10.2026, restrictions continued on 10.10.2026 and allegations were made of large-scale detention across Delhi, including beyond the area covered by Section 163

BNSS. Contempt Petition (Civil) Diary No.63801/2026 was filed alleging breach of the order dated 09.10.2026. W.P.(Crl.) Diary No.63858/2026 was also filed seeking habeas corpus in respect of persons detained on the same day. Journalists covering the protests were also detained.

- These earlier incidents are not relied upon as contempt of paragraph 16(f) but provide background for ; they explain why specific protection for journalists was sought when the matters came before this Hon'ble Court on 11.10.2026. Large-scale detentions reported to have taken place across Delhi. Writ Petition (Criminal) Diary No. 63858/2026 was instituted in this Hon'ble Court alleging illegal detention of several persons by Delhi police.. Journalists reporting the protests were alsoo reportedly treated with violence, removed and detained by the police notwithstanding the display of press identification.

11.10.2026 EXPRESS PROTECTION TO JOURNALISTS: When the aforesaid matters came before this Hon'ble Court, learned counsel specifically raised interference with lawyers, journalists and other professionals. The learned Solicitor General, on instructions, assured this Hon'ble Court that they would not

be impeded in discharge of their professional duties. Taking note of the 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."* (Live Law) W.P. (Crl.) Diary No. 63858/2026 concerning alleged violation of the order dated 09.10.2026 and widespread illegal detention in Delhi. learned Hon'ble they Hon'ble):

11.10.2026 OBSTRUCTION WHILE REPORTING:

Notwithstanding the aforesaid direction, journalists continued to face obstruction while reporting. stopped; while Mr. questioned the police, an posted a video recording the incident and stated that multiple journalists had been held by the police detained. The video also records a police told him that it was "A later post records the forcible removal detention of at least seven journalists from the location. ● Journalists associated with Reporter TV, 24 News and Asianet News, including Roshni Rajan and Farza T.M., who were were reportedly reporting from detained at or near R.K. Ashram Marg, were detained and released after several hours.

- Journalist Nidhi Suresh of The News Minute was reported to have been forcibly taken reportedly detained by the police, detained in a police station and released only at about 18:30 hrs.

- At Connaught Place, Journalists Shashwat, Siya and Vijay of The Indian Express (Hindi) who were reporting from Connaught Place were reportedly detained while reporting and taken to Chhatrasal Stadium.

, a video posted by also records a
OBSTRUCTION WHILE REPORTING:

Notwithstanding the aforesaid direction, journalists continued to face obstruction while reporting. At R.K. Ashram Marg, journalists questioning Delhi Police about the detention of another journalist were themselves stopped; while Mr. Sreenivasan Jain questioned the police, an officer told him that it was “not the right time to ask anything”. At 19:27 hrs, a video posted by Mr. Praveen Gavit also records a uniformed Delhi Police officer preventing a BBC Hindi correspondent from covering the protest. (The Wire).

- Late evening – *The Hindu* reported that Delhi Police had detained journalists at different locations in Delhi on 11.10.2026 while they were covering the protests, several of whom were wearing

identity cards and recording on their phones. The report records Delhi Police as stating that the journalists had been working “too close” to protesters and might have been detained owing to “confusion”.

11.10.2026 MANHANDLING AND USE OF FORCE: The interference was not confined to asking journalists to move. Peek TV journalists Vedanta Agarwal and Sara Khan were reported to have been violently dragged by Delhi Police personnel while reporting upon the detention of protesters at Connaught Place. The Indian Express also recorded that its journalists were forcibly put into a police bus despite informing the police that they were journalists present for reporting. The Wire separately recorded videos of journalists being bundled into police vehicles with force despite press identification being shown. (The Wire)

11.10.2026 FORCED INTO POLICE BUSES/ VANS: At about 15:33 hrs, Mr. Sreenivasan Jain recorded that at least six journalists were shoved into a police van at R.K. Ashram Marg while asking about the detention of another journalist. His subsequent post records the detention of at least seven journalists from the

location. A reporter from The Hindu was later pushed into a police bus at Connaught Place and released only after police personnel recognised that she was a journalist. ([The Wire](#)) ([Hindustan Times](#))

11.10.2026 REMOVED FROM REPORTING SITE: Once placed in police vehicles, journalists were physically removed from the places from which they were reporting. Ms. Nidhi Suresh of The News Minute was detained at about 15:00 hrs and taken away in a police vehicle; a contemporaneous post at 19:08 hrs records that police informed the women at about 18:30 hrs that they could leave. Journalists associated with Reporter TV, 24 News and Asianet News were also taken away and released only after some time.

11.10.2026 TAKEN TO DISTANT LOCATIONS: TAKEN TO DISTANT LOCATIONS: The removal was not merely temporary movement from the immediate police cordon. Delhi Police detained Shashwat, Siya and Vijay of The Indian Express Hindi while they were reporting in Connaught Place, put them in a police vehicle and took them approximately 12 kilometres away to Chhatrasal Stadium, where they were released after about 45 minutes. The police did

not cite any specific legal provision or reason whatsoever for their detention. n. ([The Indian Express](#))

- 11.10.2026** DETENTION CONTINUED AFTER REMOVAL: The effect of the police action was that journalists could no longer continue reporting from the protest site. Ms. Nidhi Suresh remained detained until approximately 18:30 hrs. The three *Indian Express Hindi* journalists remained in police custody while being transported from Connaught Place to Chhatrasal Stadium. Other journalists taken away in police vehicles were released only after the vehicles had left the locations from which they had been reporting.
- 11.10.2026** DELHI POLICE'S EXPLANATION: Later that day, It was reported that Delhi Police attributed some of the detentions to reporters working "too close" to protesters and stated that journalists may have been detained because of "confusion". The explanation did not even denydenyispute that the persons concerned were journalists covering the protests.
- 11.10.2026** CONTEMPORANEOUS RECORD OF REPEATED DETENTIONS: At 20:01 hrs, SFLC.in stated that it had recorded 50 instances of journalists being detained while

reporting the protests. The Petitioner relies upon the statement as contemporaneous material and not as proof that such all 50 instances occurred after paragraph 16(f) was operational. The Respondents' deployment, detention and vehicle records would disclose the actual number.

- 12.10.2026** A further protest march was announced in Delhi, with reports indicating that similar security arrangements may be reinstated.
- 13.10.2026** The connected matters were directed to be listed for further consideration and the compliance report directed by this Hon'ble Court is due.
- 12.10.2026** Hence the Contempt Petition.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL INHERENT JURISDICTION
CONTEMPT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. OF 2026
IN
WRIT PETITION (CRIMINAL) NO. 280 OF 2026

IN THE MATTER OF:

FREE SPEECH COLLECTIVE	...PETITIONER
<i>VERSUS</i>	
UNION OF INDIA AND ORS.	...RESPONDENTS

MEMO OF PARTIES

NAME OF THE PARTIES

THIS HON'BLE COURT

1) FREE SPEECH COLLECTIVE	PETITIONER
Represented by Ms. Geeta Seshu,	

VERSUS

1) UNION OF INDIA	RESPONDENT NO.1
Through the Secretary Ministry of Home Affairs, North Block, New Delhi – 110001	
2) GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI	RESPONDENT NO.2
Through the Secretary 3rd level, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, New Delhi – 110002	
3) COMMISSIONER OF POLICE	RESPONDENT NO.3
Police Headquarters, Jai Singh Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi – 110001	

**CONTEMPT PETITION UNDER ARTICLE 129 OF THE
CONSTITUTION OF INDIA R/W SECTION 12 OF THE
CONTEMPT OF COURTS ACT, 1971**

TO
THE HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF
INDIA AND HIS COMPANION JUDGES OF
THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

THE CONTEMPT PETITION OF THE
PETITIONER ABOVE-NAMED

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH: -

1. The present Petition is instituted in a representative capacity by Free Speech Collective, through its authorised representative, Ms. Geeta Seshu. The Petitioner is a collective of journalists, activists, researchers and academics founded in 2018, engaged in documenting and reporting concerns relating to freedom of expression, press freedom, attacks on journalists and media accountability in India. True copy of the resolution authorising Ms. Geeta Seshu dated 12.10.2026 is marked as **ANNEXURE P-1** (pgs.20 to 20).

2. The present Petition seeks enforcement of paragraph 16(f) of the order dated 11.10.2026 passed by this Hon'ble Court in Contempt Petition (Civil) Diary No. 63801/2026, which directed that lawyers, journalists and other professionals shall not be hindered in the discharge of their professional duties. The Petitioner submits that the detention, removal, obstruction and use of physical force against journalists engaged in reporting not only prevent them from discharging their professional duties, but also impair the public's right to receive information and the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under Article

19(1)(a) of the Constitution. The contemporaneous material records not merely interference with reporting, but the targeted detention, physical assault, dragging, manhandling and forcible removal of journalists notwithstanding the display of press identification and repeated disclosure/insistence of their professional status. Such conduct strikes at the constitutional function of the press as a public watchdog, inhibits the contemporaneous documentation and dissemination of information concerning the exercise of State power, and creates a chilling effect on independent reporting. The interference was therefore not only contrary to the express protection subsequently directed by this Hon'ble Court, but also violative of the constitutional guarantee of press freedom and the public's right to know. True copy of the order passed by this Hon'ble Court in Contempt Petition (Civil) Diary No. 63801/2026 dated 11.10.2026 is marked as **ANNEXURE P-2** (pgs. 21 to 31). The order records the assurance that journalists would not be impeded in the discharge of their professional duties and directs that they shall not be hindered "in any manner whatsoever".

3. The Petition is confined to the post-order conduct pleaded below, amounting to breach of the order and direction in paragraph 16(f). The Petitioner has not filed any other petition on the same cause of action.

I. THE ORDERS DATED 09.10.2026 AND 11.10.2026

4. On 09.10.2026, aggrieved by restrictions imposed upon Metro and railway services in anticipation of the proposed protest, the Petitioner therein approached this Hon'ble Court in W.P.(C) Diary No. 63560/2026, *M.A. Baby v. Union of India & Ors.* This Hon'ble Court found the proposed complete prohibition upon essential public transportation to be overreaching, distinguished between regulation and prohibition, and clarified that there shall be no outright prohibition upon Metro services. The alleged non-compliance with the said order thereafter led to Contempt Petition (Civil) Diary No. 63801/2026. 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-3** (pgs.32 to 35).

5. On 10.10.2026, restrictions continued and allegations were made of large-scale detention across Delhi, including beyond the area covered by Section 163 BNSS. Contempt Petition (Civil) Diary No. 63801/2026 was filed alleging breach of the order dated 09.10.2026. W.P.(Crl.) Diary No. 63858/2026 was also filed seeking habeas corpus in respect of persons detained on the same day.

6. Journalists covering the protests were also detained and obstructed prior to the direction now sought to be enforced. These earlier incidents are not relied upon as acts of contempt of paragraph 16(f), but form the immediate background in which specific protection for journalists was sought before this Hon'ble Court on 11.10.2026. 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-4** (pgs. 36 to 36. True copy of the report published by *The Caravan* concerning police action against its journalist while covering the protests, along with link <https://caravanmagazine.in/news/delhi-police-beats-caravan-journalist-sir-protests>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-5** (pgs. 37 to 45).

7. When the aforesaid matters came before this Hon'ble Court on 11.10.2026, learned counsel specifically raised interference with lawyers, journalists and other professionals and sought ad-interim protection for them.

8. The learned Solicitor General, on instructions, assured this Hon'ble Court that lawyers, journalists and other professionals would not be impeded in 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.”

9. Where this Hon'ble Court intended the directions in paragraph 16 to remain subject to identified restrictions, it said so expressly. Paragraphs 16(a), 16(b) and 16(d) contain such qualifications. Paragraph 16(f) contains no corresponding qualification and directs that journalists shall

not be hindered in discharge of their professional duties “in any manner whatsoever”.

II. POST-ORDER DETENTION AND OBSTRUCTION OF JOURNALISTS

A. OBSTRUCTION WHILE REPORTING

10. Notwithstanding the aforesaid direction, journalists continued to be obstructed while reporting from different locations in Delhi on 11.10.2026. At R.K. Ashram Marg, journalists questioning Delhi Police concerning the detention of another journalist were themselves stopped. At about 15:33 hrs, Mr. Sreenivasan Jain posted a video recording the incident. The video records a police officer telling him, while he questioned the police, that *“this is not the right time to ask anything”*. True copy of the contemporaneous post made by Mr. Sreenivasan Jain on X at 15:33 hrs, along with screenshots of the accompanying video, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-6** (pgs.46 to 46).

11. A subsequent post by Mr. Jain records the detention of at least seven journalists at the same location. True copy of the subsequent post made by Mr. Sreenivasan Jain on X concerning the detention of at least seven journalists at R.K. Ashram Marg is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-7** (pgs. 47 to 47).

12. Obstruction was also recorded later in the day. At 19:27 hrs, Mr. Praveen Gavit posted a video recording a uniformed Delhi Police officer preventing a BBC Hindi

correspondent from covering the protest. True copy of the post made by Mr. Praveen Gavit on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying video and link <https://x.com/praveengavit11/status/2109282211363189173>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-8** (pgs. 48 to 48).

B. MANHANDLING AND USE OF FORCE

13. The interference was not confined to regulating the position from which journalists could report. At Connaught Place, Vedanta Agarwal and Sara Khan of Peek TV were reported to have been dragged and detained while reporting upon the detention of protesters, despite showing their press cards. Independent journalist M. Rajshekhar was separately held while photographing students being detained. Scroll.in reported these incidents together with the detention of journalists associated with Reporter TV, 24 News and Asianet News. True copy of the report titled “CEC protests: At least nine journalists detained while covering demonstrations in Delhi” published by Scroll.in, 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-9** (pgs. 49 to 55).

14. Another contemporaneous video records women police personnel physically carrying a woman holding a reporter's microphone and placing her in a police bus. True copy of the post made on the X account of Ms. Pragya

Mishra, along with screenshots of the accompanying video and [link https://x.com/pragyalive/status/2109232058052776084/video/1?s=46](https://x.com/pragyalive/status/2109232058052776084/video/1?s=46), is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-10** (pgs.56 to 56).

15. *Hindustan Times* also reported instances of journalists being pushed, injured and put into police vehicles while covering the protests. True copy of the report titled “At least 12 journalists covering anti-CEC protests, including Hindustan reporter, detained by Delhi Police” published by *Hindustan Times*, along with link <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/delhi-news/at-least-12-journalists-covering-anti-cec-protests-including-hindustan-reporter-detained-by-delhi-police-101791746725529.html>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-11** (pgs. 57 to 60).

C. FORCED INTO POLICE BUSES AND VANS

16. At R.K. Ashram Marg, Mr. Sreenivasan Jain recorded at about 15:33 hrs that at least six journalists had been shoved into a police van while questioning the detention of another journalist. His subsequent post records at least seven journalists having been detained at the location. The contemporaneous posts and video are already annexed as **ANNEXURE P-6 and ANNEXURE P-7**.

17. A reporter of *The Hindu* was also placed in a police bus at Connaught Place. At about 18:19 hrs, Ms. Hemani Bhandari posted a video stating that the reporter was

released only after police personnel realised that she was a journalist with *The Hindu*, and before the bus moved. True copy of the post made by Ms. Hemani Bhandari on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying video, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-12** (pgs. 61 to 62).

D. REMOVED FROM THE REPORTING SITE

18. Once placed in police vehicles, journalists were physically removed from the locations from which they had been reporting. Ms. Nidhi Suresh of *The News Minute* was detained at about 15:00 hrs and taken away in a police vehicle. At 19:08 hrs, Ms. Dhanya Rajendran recorded that the police had informed the women at about 18:30 hrs that they could leave. True copy of the post made by Ms. Dhanya Rajendran on X concerning the detention of Ms. Nidhi Suresh, along with link <https://x.com/dhanyarajendran/status/2109277584462942593>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-13** (pgs. 63 to 64).

19. Journalists associated with Reporter TV, 24 News and Asianet News, including Roshni Rajan and Farza T.M., were also taken away in police vehicles and released thereafter. Their detention and subsequent release are recorded in the Scroll.in report annexed as **ANNEXURE P-8**.

E. TAKEN TO DISTANT LOCATIONS

20. At Connaught Place, Delhi Police detained Shashwat, Siya and Vijay of *The Indian Express Hindi* while they were reporting. Despite displaying valid press identification, they were put into a police vehicle and taken approximately 12 kilometres away to Chhatrasal Stadium, where they were released after about 45 minutes. The contemporaneous report records no specific legal provision or individual reason for their detention. True copy of the report concerning the detention of Shashwat, Siya and Vijay published by *The Indian Express*, 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-14** (pgs. 65 to 68).

F. DETENTION CONTINUED AFTER REMOVAL

21. The removal of the journalists from the reporting sites prevented them from continuing their professional duties. Ms. Nidhi Suresh remained detained until approximately 18:30 hrs. Shashwat, Siya and Vijay remained in police custody while they were transported from Connaught Place to Chhatrasal Stadium. Other journalists taken away in police vehicles were released only after they had been removed from the locations from which they were reporting.

G. DELHI POLICE'S EXPLANATION

22. *The Hindu* subsequently reported that journalists were detained from different locations in Delhi on 11.10.2026 while covering the protests, several of whom were wearing identity cards and recording on their phones. The report records Delhi Police as stating that the journalists had been working “too close” to protesters and might have been detained owing to “confusion”. The explanation does not deny that the persons detained were journalists engaged in reporting. True copy of the report titled “Anti-CEC protests continue; journalists detained despite SC order, Rahul Gandhi announces march to Supreme Court as Delhi braces for fresh curbs” published by *The Hindu*, 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-15** (pgs. 69 to 72).

23. Times Now separately recorded Mr. Sreenivasan Jain's account that several journalists had been detained despite the order passed earlier that day and also recorded an instance in which police personnel verified and photographed a journalist's press identification. True copy of the report titled “Delhi Police's Open Dare to Rule of Law, Hijacks Journalists Despite SC Order” published by Times Now, along with link <https://www.timesnownews.com/india/delhi-polices-open-dare-to-rule-of-law-hijacks-journalists-despite-sc-order->

[article-156316204](#), is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-16** (pgs. 73 to 74).

H. CONTEMPORANEOUS RECORD OF REPEATED DETENTIONS

24. At 20:01 hrs, SFLC.in stated that it had recorded 50 instances of journalists being detained while reporting the protests. The Petitioner relies upon the statement as contemporaneous material recording repeated detention of journalists and does not rely upon the figure of 50 as proof of 50 post-order acts. The Respondents' deployment, detention and vehicle records would disclose the actual number. True copy of the post made by SFLC.in on X at 20:01 hrs, along with link <https://x.com/SFLCin/status/2109290733425299881>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-17** (pgs. 75 to 75).

I. FURTHER CONTEMPORANEOUS VIDEO RECORD

25. The aforesaid incidents are further supported by contemporaneous videos circulated during the protests recording police action on the ground. The Petitioner relies upon these recordings as part of the contemporaneous record of the events of 11.10.2026.

True and translation copy of the post made by Molitics India on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying video and link

<https://x.com/moliticsindia/status/2109259266997784718>,

is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-18** (pgs. 76 to 77).

True and translation copy of the post made by Molitics India on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying video and link

<https://x.com/moliticsindia/status/2109357741227815343>,

is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-19** (pgs. 78 to 79).

True copy of the post made on the X account @Benarasiyaa, along with screenshots of the accompanying video and link

<https://x.com/Benarasiyaa/status/2109335459889545721>,

is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-20** (pgs. 80 to 80).

True copy of the post made by Article 14 on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying video and link

<https://x.com/Article14live/status/2109229614161674703>,

is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-21** (pgs. 81 to 81).

26. The Petitioner also relies upon contemporaneous videos published on Instagram recording police action during the protests.

True copy of the video published on Instagram, along with screenshots thereof and link

https://www.instagram.com/reel/DeUR1eeAKZH/?dfr=NXR1Y2psbWg5OGU2&wa_logging_event=video_play_open,

is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-22** (pgs. 82 to 82).

True copy of the video published on Instagram, along with screenshots thereof and link <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DeXCXKETCot/?xtok=MXFxYzFjbWw1ZjEyeA%3D%3D>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-23** (pgs. 83 to 83).

True copy of the video published on Instagram, along with screenshots thereof and link <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DeWrjSJzoth/?rpxt=MTdpOG9ndnllMXh3Zw%3D%3D>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-24** (pgs. 84 to 84).

True copy of the video published on Instagram, along with screenshots thereof and link <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DeYfg56zxhs/?mdxt=MTVvaG53dWNiamZtZA==>, is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE P-25** (pgs. 85 to 85).

27. Prior to the hearing on 11.10.2026, journalists reporting the protests had also been detained by Delhi Police. Contemporaneous reports recorded numerous instances involving the removal, obstruction and detention othe detention of journalists associated with multiple media organisations, notwithstanding the display of press identification. While those incidents are not pleaded as acts of contempt, they form part of the background against which protection for journalists was specifically sought before this Hon'ble Court.

28. Notwithstanding paragraph 16(f), Delhi Police personnel thereafter forcibly detained, removed or otherwise

obstructed journalists reporting on the protests at different locations in Delhi on 11.10.2026, including using undue and excessive force in several instances, as detailed in the List of Dates hereinabove and not repeated herein for the sake of brevity. For the sake of the present Petition, the Petitioner relies upon acts occurring, or custody and obstruction continuing, after paragraph 16(f) became operative upon pronouncement on 11.10.2026.

III. WHY THE POST-ORDER ACTS AMOUNT TO DISOBEDIENCE

29. Paragraph 16(f) expressly prohibited any hindrance to journalists in the discharge of their professional duties “in any manner whatsoever”. Paragraph 16(f) expressly prohibited any hindrance to journalists in the discharge of their professional duties “in any manner whatsoever”. A journalist cannot report from a police vehicle, or a detention facility or for that matter from Chhatrasal Stadium. Detention while reporting, or removal from where the journalist was covering the protest, is itself the prohibited hindrance.

30. The post-order conduct of the Delhi Police was not limited to interference with reporting as contemporaneous material records the detention, physical assault, dragging, manhandling and forcible removal of journalists notwithstanding their display of press identification (press cards, microphones, camera etc.) and repeated disclosure of their professional status. Such conduct is wholly unwarranted, unsupported by any disclosed legal process,

or recorded justification, and amounts to an arbitrary exercise of State power. The targeting of journalists engaged in reporting on matters of public importance strikes at the heart of the constitutional guarantee under Article 19(1)(a), impairs the public's right to receive information, and undermines the rule of law itself.

31. The explanation that journalists were “too close” to protesters or were detained due to “confusion” is no explanation at all. It identifies no journalist who obstructed police action, no lawful direction that was issued, no refusal to comply, and no legal basis for detention or removal. Nor does it explain why journalists who had disclosed their identity and displayed press credentials were nevertheless detained. The reported release of a The Hindu reporter immediately upon recognition of her professional status demonstrates that verification, not detention, was required.

32. Paragraph 16(f) required implementation through the police chain of command. This Hon'ble Court expressly directed that journalists shall not be hindered in the discharge of their professional duties “in any manner whatsoever”. Yet the Respondents have disclosed no operational communication conveying that direction to officers deployed on the ground, identified no officer responsible for the post-order detentions, and produced no material capable of justifying or explaining the acts complained of.

33. The post-order detention, removal and physical obstruction of identifiable journalists engaged in reporting were therefore not supported by any disclosed process, lawful basis or operational necessity. On the material presently available, the acts are evidently arbitrary, targeted and wholly inconsistent with the assurance recorded by this Hon'ble Court and the direction issued pursuant thereto.

34. The use of force against identifiable journalists, and their removal from reporting locations, on the very day this Hon'ble Court in an urgent sitting specifically protected journalists in the discharge of their professional duties, and directed that they "shall not be hindered in discharge of their professional duties in any manner whatsoever", amounts to an egregious violation and discloses a deliberate disregard of both the assurance recorded by this Hon'ble Court and the operative direction founded upon it.

35. The repeated post-order acts of the Delhi Police require this Hon'ble Court to exercise its contempt jurisdiction, to secure obedience to its order and to require an account from those responsible for giving effect to it. Immediate intervention is necessary. The connected matters stand listed on 13.10.2026 with compliance due; a further march has been announced on 12.10.2026 and similar security arrangements are reported to be likely; thus, there exists a real likelihood of recurrence.

PRAYER

In the circumstances stated above, it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to:

- a) Initiate contempt proceedings against the Respondent for wilful and contumacious disobedience of paragraph 16(f) of this Hon'ble Court's order dated 11.10.2026 in;
- b) Direct the Respondents to comply forthwith with paragraph 16(f) of the order dated 11.10.2026;
- c) Pass such further order as may be necessary to prevent recurrence;
- d) Pass such other and further order(s) as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.

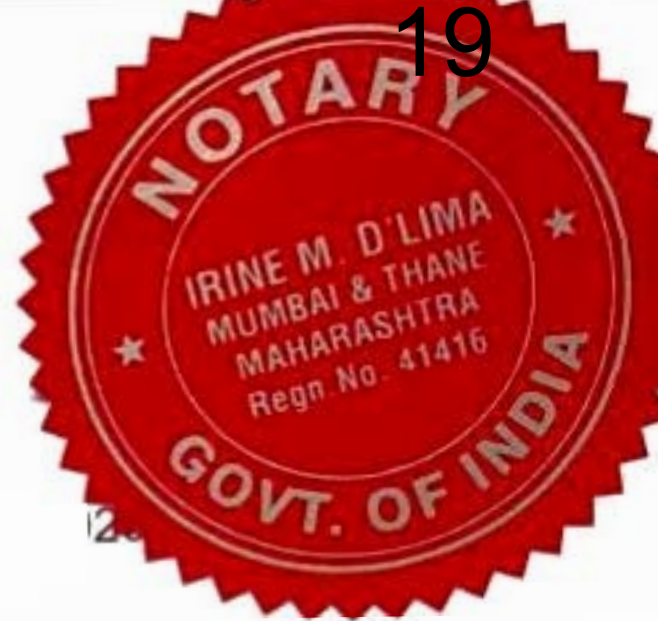
AND FOR THIS ACT OF KINDNESS, THE PETITIONER AS IN DUTY BOUND SHALL EVER PRAY.

Place: New Delhi
Date: 12.10.2026

Filed By: *Aarthi Rajan*

AARTHI RAJAN
Advocate for the Petitioner
CODE 2547

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL INHERENT JURISDICTION



CONTEMPT PETITION (CIVIL) DIARY NO. 63801 OF 2026

IN

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 Contempt Petition [paras 1 to 35 and pages 1 to 18], Synopsis and List of Dates [B -K] 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.

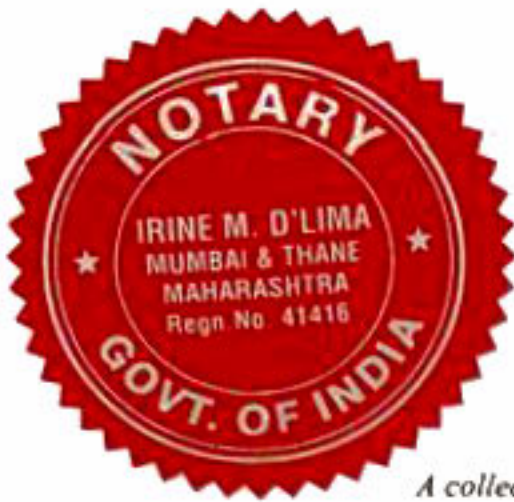
Verified by me at Mumbai on 12th October 2026

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
Sr. No. 1225
Date 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



ITEM NOS.1 + 2

COURT NO.5

SECTION PIL-W

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.

Signature valid

Digitally signed by
NITIN KALRA
Date: 2025.10.11
16:23:05 +05'30'
Reason:

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

ITEM NOS.802 + 803

COURT NO.1

SECTION X

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

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



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 [@SavyasachiAstha](#)



2:38 PM · Oct 11, 2026 · 9,126 Views



8



152



311



23



प्रशांत सोनी پرشانت سونی 🍀 @Prrasantsoni · 20h



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आपकी बातचीत अच्छी लगी

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NEWS / NEWS

Delhi Police beats and detains a Caravan journalist during CEC protests





THE CARAVAN

12 October, 2026

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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.”

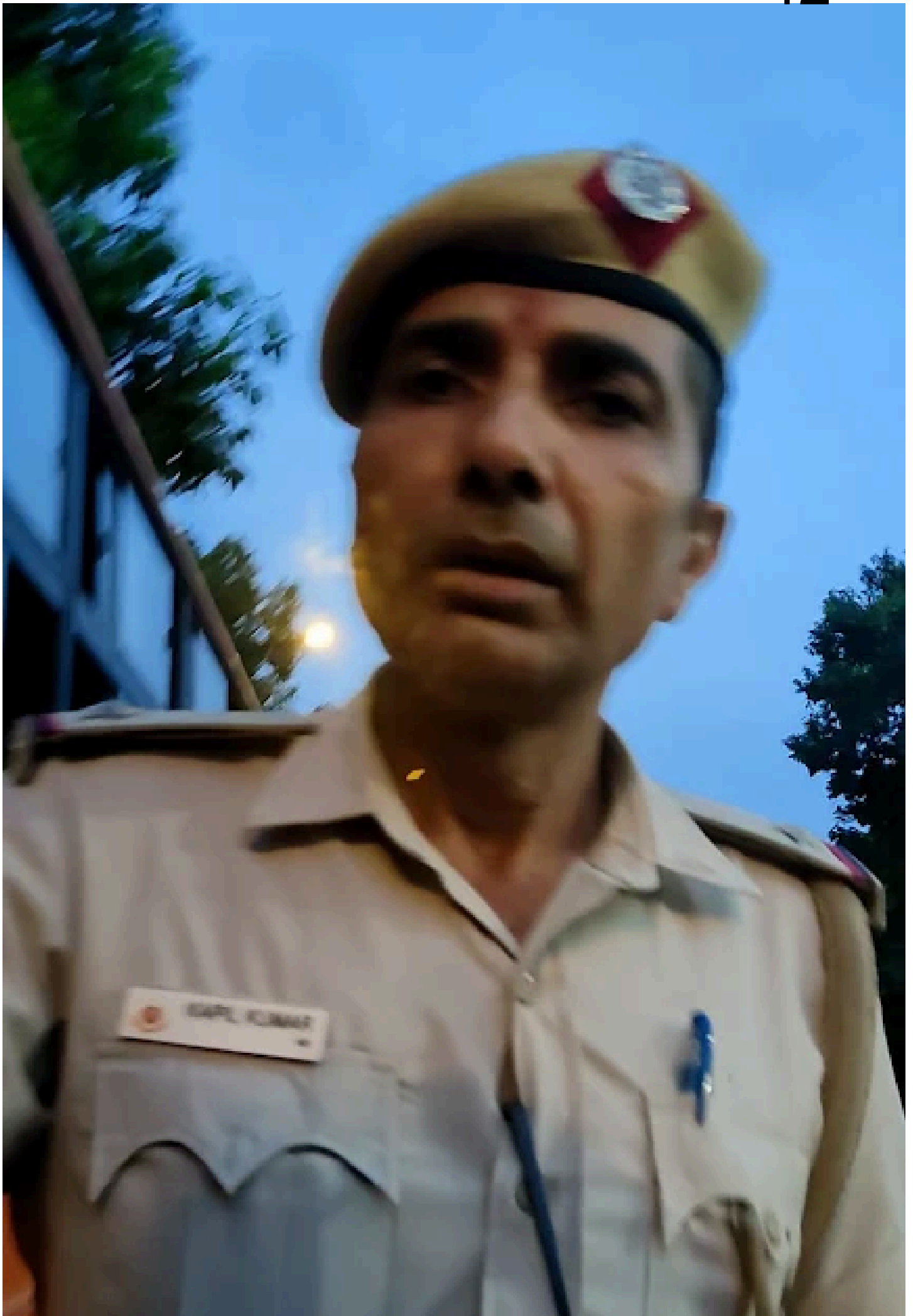
Around 6 pm, on Janpath Road, as the police were detaining protesters, Ryan started following and recording a video of a group of policemen taking an individual to a detention bus parked nearby. One of them, Assistant Sub-Inspector Kapil Kumar—who was, unlike the others, wearing a name tag—turned and 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.

Transaction Id : M18030832606590

पंजीकरण कार्ड / R/O

Provisional Diagnosis

GENERAL CONSENT

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 & RML Hospital

(Name, Designation, Date and Signature of Receiving Person)

ABVIMS and Dr RML Hospital Baba Kharak 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

ANNEXURE - P6

<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>



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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

Annexure – P8

Post



Praveen Gavit
@praveengavit11

...

[Show translation](#)

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7:27 PM · Oct 11, 2026 · 224.8K 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 5 minutes ago

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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

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How Modi put Delhi under siege to protect Gyanesh Kumar



Delhi Police arrested thousands far away from Jantar Mantar. Was this legal?



[News](#), were also detained.



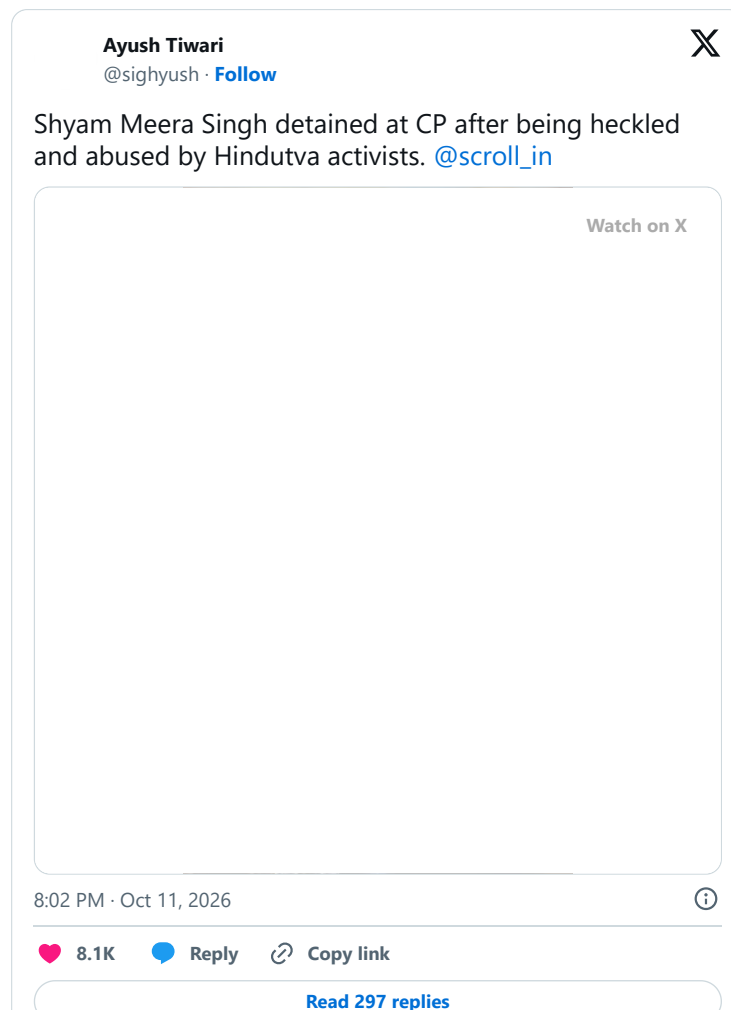
Before you scroll further...

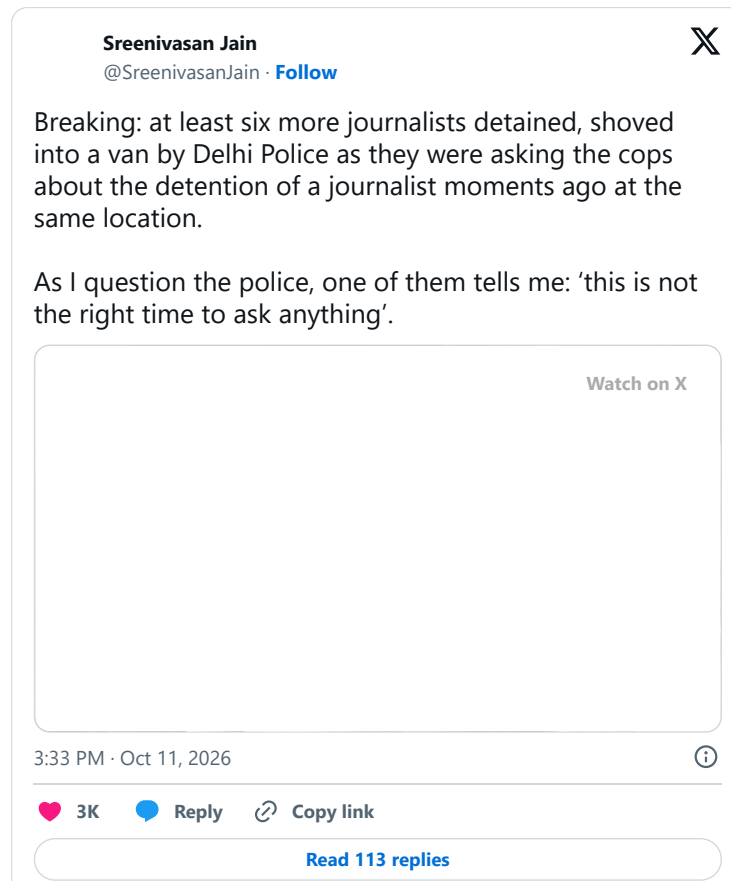
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Journalist and content creator Shyam Meera Singh was also [detained](#). His account on social media platform X was [withheld](#) in India on Sunday. It remained restricted, as of 1.15 pm on Monday.

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.





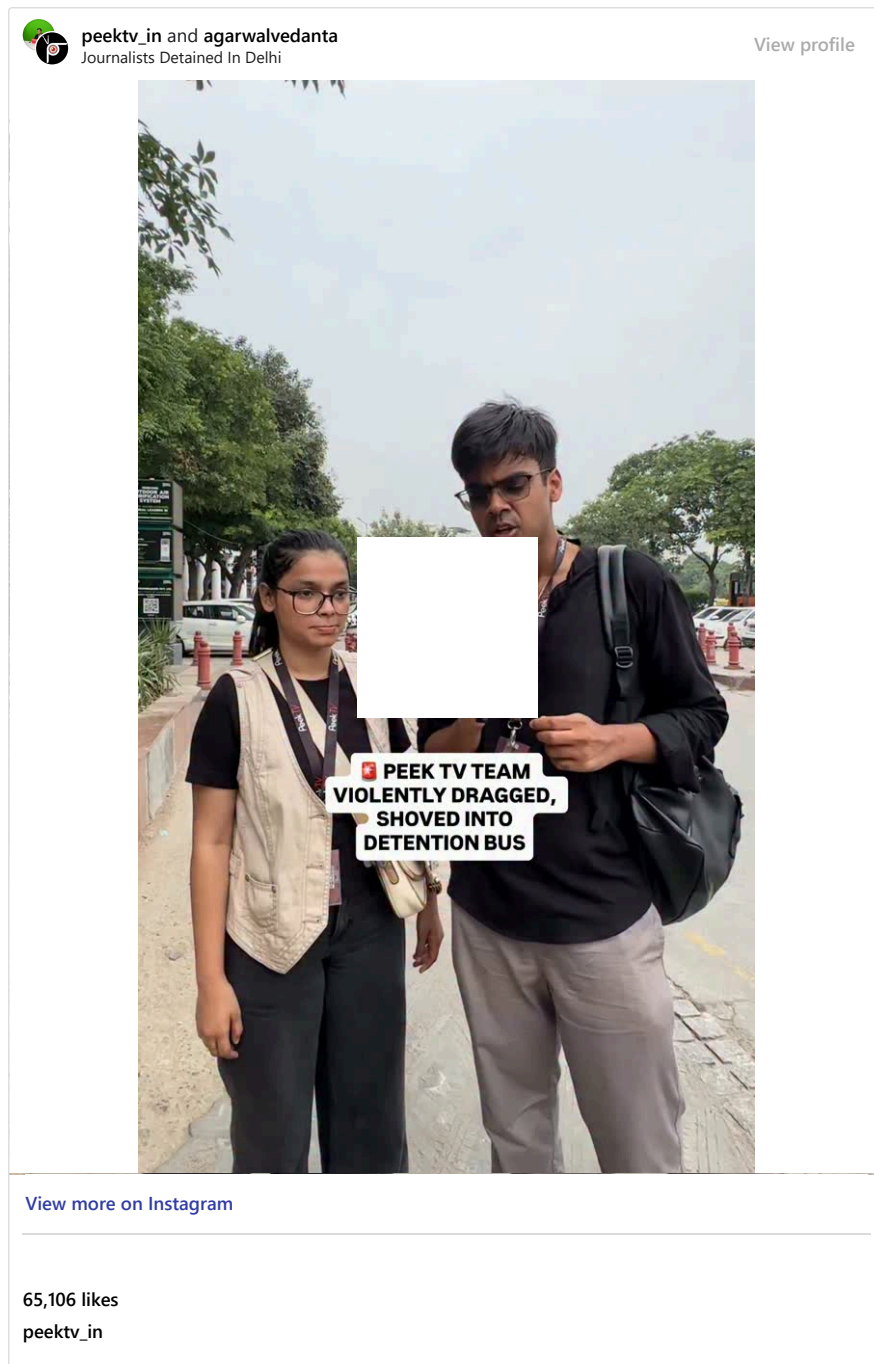
Peek TV said its journalists Vedanta Agarwal and Sara Khan were “[dragged](#)” and detained by the Delhi Police from Connaught Place while reporting on the detention of protesters, despite showing their press cards.

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 sought medical treatment at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, *The Caravan* said.

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

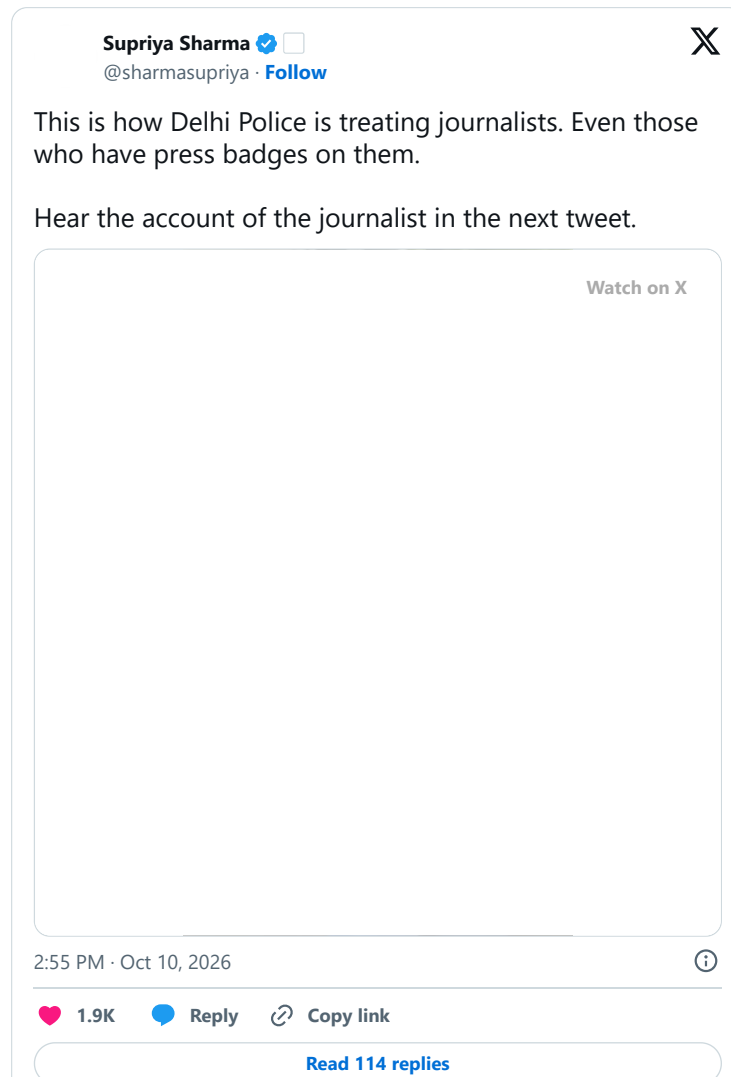


The Malayalam journalists were also released hours later, *Mathrubhumi* reported.

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



‘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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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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1 How Modi put Delhi under siege to protect Gyanesh Kumar

2 Delhi Police arrested thousands far away from Jantar Mantar. Was this legal?

3

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.

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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How Modi put Delhi under siege to protect Gyanesh Kumar



Delhi Police arrested thousands far away from Jantar Mantar. Was this legal?



ANNEXURE - P10

Annexure – P10

← Post

 **Pragya Mishra** 
@PragyaLive

 Show translation

हिरासत में लो..थाने में बिठाओ..जो सच दिखा रहे हैं..उनको रोको..लोकतंत्र के चीरहरण की तस्वीरें बाहर मत जाने दो..दिल्ली पुलिस इसी एजेंडे पर काम कर रही है...मेरे पास माइक है..माइक आईडी है...सब कुछ है लेकिन बेहद अपमानजनक तरीके से दिल्ली पुलिस ने जानबूझकर मुझे बस के भीतर फेंक दिया..और डिटैन कर लिया..ये देश की राजधानी दिल्ली है...अंधेर नगरी..अंधी पुलिस और चौपट राजा...



4:08 PM · Oct 11, 2026 · 484K Views

 936  5.7K  14K  448 

At least 12 journalists covering anti-CEC protests, including Hindustan reporter, detained by Delhi Police

A Hindustan reporter and journalists from The Indian Express and The Hindu were among those taken into custody while covering demonstrations.

Updated on: Oct 12, 2026, 09:53:04 IST

By [Jignasa Sinha](#), New Delhi

Prefer HT
on Google



Advertisement

Delhi Police on Sunday detained at least 12 journalists — including a reporter from Hindustan, a Hindustan Times sister publication — who were covering the second day of protests in New Delhi against the chief election commissioner [Gyanesh Kumar](#).



Protesters detained as they continued the stir on Sunday. (HT Photo)

Advertisement

Hindustan reporter describes being detained

[Hindustan](#) reporter Ashish Singh, 27, said he was detained from RK Ashram Marg, where he was covering the protest called by the [All India Students Association \(AISA\)](#) around 2.30pm. He said was pushed around and injured, despite wearing an ID which clearly identified him as a member of the press.

“I was recording the detentions on my camera when I felt police pushing me. They

and not even obstructing police in their duty, but they still misbehaved with me.”

Advertisement

Singh was on the bus for around 20-30 minutes when it reached the Mandir Marg area, where jumped out of the bus with the other journalist. “I was scared that the police would snatch our phones and delete all the media.”

Also read: [Dhruv Rathee released late on Saturday, hours after being detained ahead of CJP protest: Officials](#)

Photojournalist describes detention

The photojournalist from a national [news agency](#) who did not wish to be identified said they were while taking photos of people being detained. They were “removing

Advertisement

Three reporters of the Indian Express Hindi, one from The Hindu, and camera persons from digital news platforms were among the other detained journalists.

The [Delhi Police](#) PRO refused to comment on the detentions.

Also read: [Bleeding protesters, detained journalists: New Delhi sees fresh chaos despite SC order](#)

Indian Express journalists released and Hindu reporter briefly detained

In a post on X, the Indian Express official account identified the journalists as Shashwat, Siya and Vijay. It said they were detained from [Connaught Place](#) and taken to Chhatrasal Stadium. They were released after nearly 45 minutes, around 12 km away from where they were picked up.

Around 6-7 pm, a journalist from The Hindu was also briefly detained as she was pushed onto a bus. However, she was released after she insisted she was a reporter.

Advertisement



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.



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 · 28K Views



33



445



1.3K



29

**Neeraj** @neerajapte007 · 17h

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



9



759

**Sridhar Joshi** @brahmmajoshi · 18h

Any updates on Dharmasthala, Madam?



2



5



432

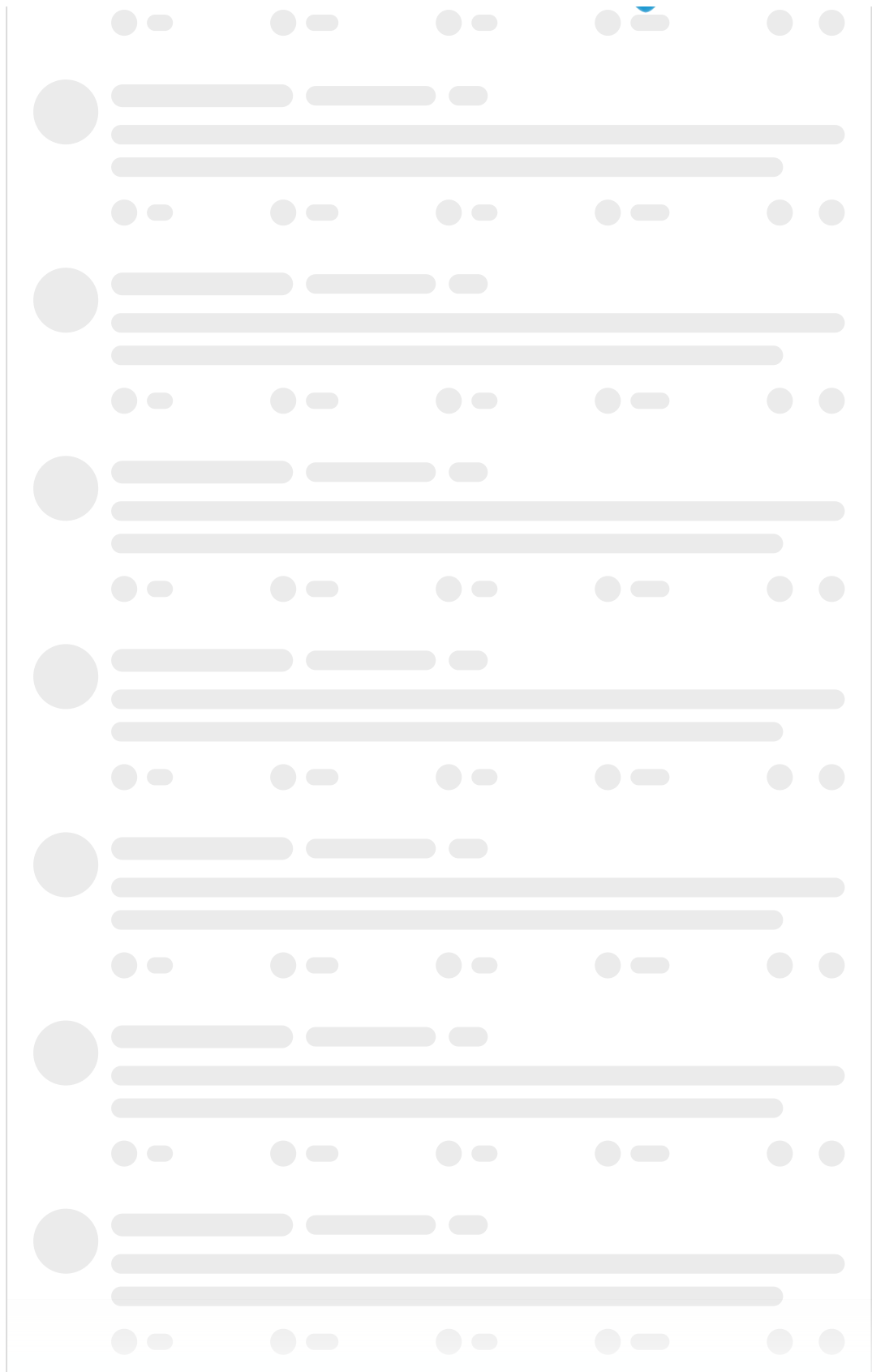
**Ravindrakumar A** ✓ @ARavindrakumar · 17h

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

See all the replies

Continue to X





See all the replies

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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)

 Make us preferred source on Google



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?

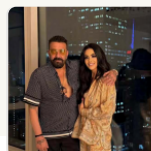
Hearing petitions challenging restrictions imposed amid the protests, the Supreme Court said detention must follow the procedure established by law, particularly in cases involving peaceful, unarmed assemblies outside areas covered by Section 163.

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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ANNEXURE - P15

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 was deployed 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.

Keep track | Anti-CEC protest LIVE: CJI Surya Kant declines to meet INDIA Bloc leaders on October 12; Delhi Police detain women protesters after 6 p.m.

Leader of the Opposition (LoP) and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, meanwhile, announced a **march to the Supreme Court** on Monday (October 12), calling the “youth, all opposition parties, civil society groups, all those who believe in democracy and stand by the Constitution of India,” to join the procession.

Security set to be tightened on October 12

The unprecedented security arrangements in the New Delhi area — imposed on October 10, and considerably relaxed after the top court's hearing earlier in the day — are likely to be back on Monday (October 12) in the wake of Mr. Gandhi's call. While mobile Internet was restored on Sunday (October 11), residents continued a cautious approach. Despite the festive season, footfall and business remained low in Connaught Place and the central Delhi area that was still interspersed with police barricades.

Activists of different organisations alleged that they were beaten by security forces, which the Delhi Police denied. The police claimed that the protestors were being adamant and not cooperating at the time of detention.

Meanwhile, Ashutosh Ranka and Saurav Das, Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) leaders who were released on Sunday (October 11) after being detained a day earlier, asserted that the protests would continue till the CEC resigns. He called Prime Minister Narendra Modi the biggest “coward” and urged people to protest peacefully wherever they were. CJP convenor Abhijeet Dipke left for Maharashtra to be with his family, following the demise of his grandmother.



New epicentre of protest

As security forces continued to block all entrances to Jantar Mantar, the designated protest site in the capital, the agitation shifted to other parts of the city, with Connaught Place in the heart of the national capital becoming the new epicentre of the protest.

A series of protests broke out in the outer circle of Connaught Place, starting from a march carried out by various students groups, including All India Students' Federation (AISF), the Students' Federation of India (SFI), the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) and the Krantikari Yuva Sangathan (KYS), followed by a march led by AISA and then by the Revolutionary Workers' Party of India (RWPI) and the Disha Students' Organisation. All of them were detained by security personnel.

In the evening, women SFI activists doing a 'Tiranga Yatra' were detained from Connaught Place after 6 p.m. and taken away in a bus by security forces. The SFI termed the detention of women post 6 p.m. as illegal and alleged that the women activists were beaten by male officers.

By evening, security was stepped up in Connaught Place and security personnel detained many people, including some who were just talking to the media.

The CJP's leaders, however, are seeking a return to Jantar Mantar. Mr. Ranka, Mr. Das, and Ms. Singh plan to visit the Parliament Street police station to seek a date for

holding a peaceful protest at Jantar Mantar. “Delhi Police can give us a date for Jantar Mantar in 24 hours, or we will give another protest call ourselves,” Mr. Ranka said.



Journalists detained again

At least seven journalists were detained on Sunday (October 11), from different parts of the city while covering the protest, despite many of them wearing their ID cards around their necks. Many of them were taking videos on their phones. The Delhi Police claimed that the reporters were working “too close” to the protestors while they were being detained and may have been detained because of “confusion”.

During the day, some student activists were detained in buses which had cage-like structures resembling police lockups, which is uncommon while detaining student protestors in Delhi.

On Saturday (October 10), 45 metro stations were shut down in the capital, while internet services were blocked around the Jantar Mantar area. Both the metro and internet services resumed on Sunday after a rap from the Supreme Court. However, residents continued to have a cautious approach, and footfall at businesses remained low in the central Delhi area which remained under heavy barricading.

Published – October 11, 2026 10:59 pm IST



ANNEXURE - P16



FARIDABAD, 27°C

TIMES NOW

LIVE TV

SIGN IN

12 OCT 2026 | 11:19 AM IST



INDIA

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INDIA NEWS

Delhi Police's Open Dare To Rule Of Law, Hijacks Journalists Despite SC Order

Written by: Sriram Ganesh | Updated: Oct 11, 2026, 19:28 IST

The crackdown by Delhi Police during the CJP protests have raised serious concerns regarding press freedom. Numerous journalists, including those from prominent publications like Hindustan Times and The Indian Express, were reportedly detained and mistreated despite a Supreme Court order safeguarding their rights.



A Brutal Security Force Crackdown In Delhi; Jantar Mantar Turns Fortress Again

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The Delhi Police crackdown at Jantar Mantar on the second day of the Cockroach Janta Party's protests against Chief Election Commissioner

Related News >>

'Will Take To Streets': CJP's Abhijeet Dipke Says He Didn't Sign Any Bond Promising Not To Protest Again

Gyanesh Kumar have raised severe alarms over press freedom, as reports have emerged of several journalists being dragged and detained. Several independent and senior journalists on ground have reported mishandling of press personnel by the Police. Senior journalist Sreenivasan Jain took to social media and shared visuals of several journalists being shoved into police detention vans. Jain stated that upwards of seven journalists were detained by the police, despite a Supreme Court order from earlier today which allows the Press personnel to do their job on ground.



ASI Shot Dead in Punjab's Tarn Taran, Fifth Cop Killed This Year



'Army Is The Rule, Army Is The Law': India Shuts Pak At UN Over Lecture...



Cops Seen Dragging Women Protesters, Raises Questions Over Police...



Overhead Bin Catches Fire, Crew Fumbles: IndiGo Passenger...



AAP

@AamAadmiParty · Follow



The Delhi Police detained three journalists from The Indian Express, the newspaper that exposed Gyanesh Kumar, despite the Supreme Court's order to allow journalists to report freely.

Watch on X



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](#)

[@SreenivasanJain](#) [@AbhinandanSekhr](#) [@SushantSin](#) [@vijaita](#) [@suhasinih](#)
[@RanaAyyub](#) [@SauravDassss](#) [@nilanjanaroy](#) [@prapthi_m](#) [@Kabiran_](#)
[@kafkasbluebug](#) [@iPriyanka_S](#) [@amnesty](#) [@abhijeet_dipke](#) [@riotsjain](#)
[@AshutoshRanka](#) [@ravish_journo](#) [@RSF_inter](#) [@MnshaP](#) [@dhanyarajendran](#)
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8:01 PM · Oct 11, 2026 · **1,074** Views



1



20



25



4



/A [@ThatRedDevil](#) · 14h
[@dhanyarajendran](#) fwi



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**Molitics** ✓

@moliticsindia

...

[Show translation](#)

RK Ashram : "मैं रिपोर्टर हूँ, अपना काम कर रही हूँ!" प्रेस कार्ड गले में लटका था, फिर भी पुलिस ने खींचा और बस में भर दिया!

पत्रकार प्रज्ञा मिश्रा को ऑन-कैमरा रिपोर्टिंग करते समय पुलिस ने हिरासत में लिया। कैमरे को धक्का दिया गया और सवाल पूछने पर बस में डाल दिया गया।

डिजिटल तानाशाही और ग्राउंड पर पुलिसिया दमन की ये तस्वीरें देश का सच बयां कर रही हैं।

Video - [@Harishjha97](#)

[#PragyaMishra](#) [#Molitics](#) [#PressFreedom](#) [#DelhiPolice](#)



5:56 PM · Oct 11, 2026 · 1,456 Views

See all the replies

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Molitics (@moliticsindia)

RK Ashram: "You are reporting; do your job!" The press card was hanging around his neck, yet the police dragged him away and took him into custody!

Journalist Pragya Mishra was harassed by the police while reporting on camera. The camera was pushed, and an attempt was made to snatch it away.

Digital dictatorship and hooliganism in uniform are revealing the truth about the country.

Video – @Harishjha97

#PragyaMishra #Molitics #PressFreedom #DelhiPolice



Post

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**Molitics** ✓

@moliticsindia



Show translation

जंतर-मंतर पर चल रहे प्रोटेस्ट के दौरान पुलिस द्वारा राइट विंग के उपद्रवियों को बचाने और सवाल पूछने पर Molitics की रिपोर्टर @Geet_reports का फोन पटकने की घटना सामने आई है।

#JantarMantar #JournalismIsNotACrime #PressFreedom #Molitics
#DelhiPolice
#MediaUnderAttack



12:27 AM · Oct 12, 2026 · 1,563 Views



2



89

See all the replies



15



4



Continue to X

Molitics (@moliticsindia)

During the protest at Jantar Mantar, the police are stopping journalists from performing their duties and suppressing press freedom. Listen to what @Geet_reports had to say about the incident on camera.

#JantarMantar #JournalismIsNotACrime #PressFreedom
#Molitics #DelhiPolice #MediaUnderAttack



Piyush Rai ✓
@Benarasiyaa

...

A journalist who was meant to be protected from hostilities was instead dragged and forced into a van by the same security personnel who were supposed to stop the aggressors.

This is emergency in its full glory!



Post

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10:58 PM · Oct 11, 2026 · **12.8K** Views



17



306



842



56



TEJASH CHAUDHARY ✓ @TEJASHCHAU27052 · 15h

...

सोचो चिल्ला कौन रहा है उतापात कौन मचा रहा है लेकिन गिरफ्तार किसे किया जा रहा है !



2



153



See all the replies



Continue to X



Article 14

@Article14live



"Your gathering has been declared unlawful"

A Delhi police banner as police "whistle blowers" face off against and try to to drown out journalists

@_sabahgurmat



3:58 PM · Oct 11, 2026 · 2,609 Views



2



51



111



8



Brundaban Behera

@twitt2Brundaban · 2h



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Mumbai



mumbaileak • Follow

Original audio



mumbaileak 1d

मुंबई में प्रदर्शन से पहले पुलिस की कार्रवाई! अगस्त क्रांति मैदान के पास कई प्रदर्शनकारी हिरासत में

मुंबई में शनिवार, 10 अक्टूबर को मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त ज्ञानेश कुमार के खिलाफ प्रदर्शन करने जा रहे लोगों को पुलिस ने अगस्त क्रांति मैदान के पास रोक दिया। प्रदर्शनकारियों में काँकरोच जनता पार्टी (CJP) के समर्थक भी शामिल थे। प्रदर्शनकारी जैसे ही प्रदर्शन स्थल की ओर बढ़ने लगे, मुंबई पुलिस ने रास्तों पर बैरिकेडिंग कर उन्हें आगे जाने से रोक दिया। इस दौरान कई प्रदर्शनकारियों को हिरासत में ले लिया गया। ज्ञानेश कुमार के खिलाफ प्रदर्शन से पहले पुलिस की कार्रवाई दर्ज है।



30.4K



1.2K



1 day ago

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thequint and heyeshwar
Original audio

thequint 17h
Several journalists were detained by the Delhi Police at RK Ashram Metro Station on 11 October while they were present to cover protests called by the All India Students' Association (AISA).

The detentions came amid heightened police action in Delhi as protests against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar continued across the capital. Journalists at the spot were there to report on the developments as police moved to detain protesters.

+

sujit.3o 6h
🔥🔥🔥 मोदी जी, अमित शाह जी और दिल्ली पुलिस—जनता को जवाब दो! 🔥🔥
🔥 ये लोग हैं जो दिल्ली की शांति नहीं...

1.2K 17

17 hours ago

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thequint and heyeshwar
Original audio



thequint • 20h

Amid a ruckus created by right-wing groups near Connaught Place, reporters and photographers confronted Delhi Police personnel who were attempting to clear a crowd gathered around a car.

The journalists repeatedly urged the police to inspect the vehicle, particularly its boot, which allegedly contained several sticks. They also questioned why the occupants were carrying sticks in the car.

However, instead of inspecting the vehicle or questioning its occupants, the police allowed the car to speed away.

The incident unfolded amid the continuing police crackdown on protesters demonstrating against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar



26.4K



686



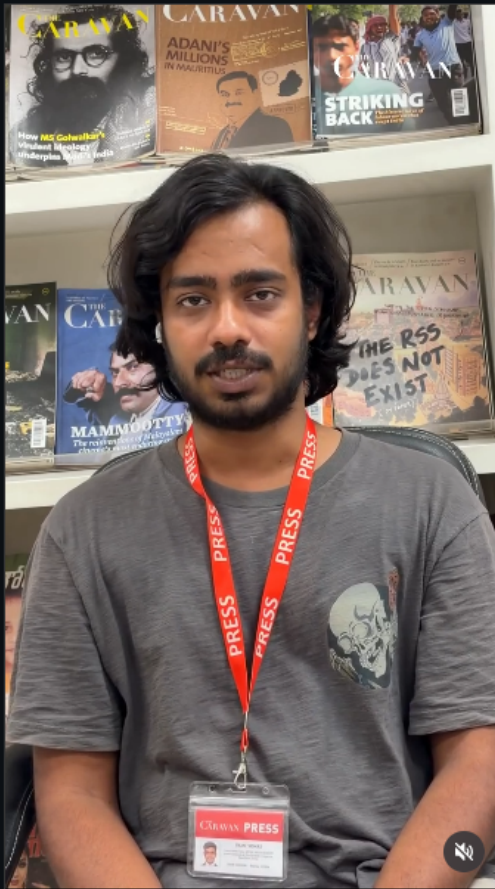
20 hours ago

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thecaravanmagazine and 2 others

...

Original audio



thecaravanmagazine 3h

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." Police tried to seize Ryan phone and force him to delete footage he had recorded.

Video by Amrita Singh (@jamsonthebeat), Puja Sen (



968



21



3 hours ago

[Log in](#) to like or comment.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
 CIVIL INHERENT JURISDICTION
 CONTEMPT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. OF 2026
 IN
 WRIT PETITION (CRIMINAL) NO. 280 OF 2026

IN THE MATTER OF:

FREE SPEECH COLLECTIVE	VERSUS	...PETITIONER
UNION OF INDIA AND ORS.		...RESPONDENTS

**APPLICATION SEEKING PERMISSION
 TO FILE THE CONTEMPT PETITION**

TO

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

THE APPLICATION OF THE
 PETITIONER ABOVE-
 NAMED

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH: -

1. That the accompanying contempt petition (Civil) has been preferred by the applicant who is the advocate in the main writ petition and the lead petitioner in the Writ Petition (Criminal) No.280 of 2026 which is related to the police atrocities against the protesters in the protest against NEET paper leak on 20/07/2026.

2. That the petitioner is not a party in the Writ Petition (Criminal) No.280 of 2026, but is extremely affected by the

deliberate, intentional and willful disobedience of the order passed by this Hon'ble Court on 09/10/2026.

3. That the present Application is made bona fide and in the interests of justice.

PRAYER

In the circumstances, it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to:

- (a) Allow the petitioner to file the instant contempt petition
- (b) Pass such further or other orders or directions as this Hon'ble Court deems fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the present case.

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

Place: New Delhi
Date: 12.10.2026

Filed By:



AARTHI RAJAN

Advocate for the Petitioner
CODE 2547



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL INHERENT JURISDICTION

INTERLDCUTDRY APPLICATION NO. OF 2026

IN

CONTEMPT PETITION (CIVIL) DIARY NO. 63801 OF 2026

IN

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 42/2, Vardhman Rd. Bandra (W), Mumbai - 40, the
Representative of the Petitioner in the above-mentioned matter, do
hereby solemnly affirm, and state as follows:

1. That I am Representative of 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 accompanying Application and have understood the same and say that they are true and correct to the best of knowledge and belief. I say that the same has been drafted on my instructions.
3. That the Annexures accompanying the Application 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 2nd Oct. 2026

Geeta Seshu
DEPONENT

BEFORE ME

IRINE M. D'LIMA

ADVOCATE & NOTARY

303, Dunhill Dome, St. John Road

Bandra (W), Mumbai - 400 050.

Regn No 41416

NOTED & REGISTERED
Page No. 41
Sr. No. 1224
11/2 OCT 2026



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
 CIVIL INHERENT JURISDICTION
 CONTEMPT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. OF 2026
 IN
 WRIT PETITION (CRIMINAL) NO. 280 OF 2026

IN THE MATTER OF:

FREE SPEECH COLLECTIVE	VERSUS	...PETITIONER
UNION OF INDIA AND ORS.		...RESPONDENTS

**APPLICATION OF THE PETITIONER
 SEEKING EXEMPTION FROM FILING
 OFFICIAL TRANSLATIONS OF
 CERTAIN ANNEXURES**

TO

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

THE APPLICATION OF THE
 PETITIONER ABOVE-
 NAMED

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH: -

1. hat the accompanying contempt petition (Civil) has been preferred by the applicant who is the advocate in the main writ petition and the lead petitioner in the Writ Petition (Criminal) No.280 of 2026 which is related to the police atrocities against the protesters in the protest against NEET paper leak on 20/07/2026.

2. That the Petitioner has relied upon certain documents which have been originally written in hindi Language, namely:

a.		<u>ANNEXURE P-18</u> True and translation copy of the post made by Molitics India on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying video and link https://x.com/moliticsindia/status/2109259266997784718
b.		<u>ANNEXURE P-19</u> True and translation copy of the post made by Molitics India on X, along with screenshots of the accompanying video and link https://x.com/moliticsindia/status/2109357741227815343

3. The said originals have been translated into English by a competent hand. The translations are true and correct rendering of the originals. The matter is of extreme urgency and therefore, it is in the interest of justice that the translations are taken on record and the requirement of filing official translations is dispensed with.

4. That the present Application is made bona fide and in the interests of justice.

PRAYER

In the circumstances, it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to:

- (c) Exempt the petitioner from filing official translations of **ANNEXURE P-18 & P-19** and take on record the translated copy of the said annexures; and / or
- (d) Pass such further or other orders or directions as this Hon'ble Court deems fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the present case.

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

Place: New Delhi
Date: 12.10.2026

Filed By: *Aarthi Rajan*
AARTHI RAJAN
Advocate for the Petitioner
CODE 2547

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL INHERENT JURISDICTION
INTERLOCUTORY APPLICATION NO. _____ OF 2026
IN
CONTEMPT PETITORY NO. 63801 OF 2026 IN
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 2, Vennu, (Cutter RD Bandaru PO), Vennu - 5 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 accompanying Intervention Application 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 Intervention Application are true copies of their respective originals.

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 Muradpur on 12th of Oct 2026

DEPONENT

BEFORE ME

IRINE M. D'LIMA
ADVOCATE & NOTARY
203, Dunhill Dome, St. John Road
Sandra (W), Mumbai - 400 050
Regn No 41416

NOTED & REGISTERED
Page No. 411
ST. No. 1226
2 OCT 2026
CREC-II



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL INHERENT JURISDICTION
CONTEMPT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. OF 2026
IN
WRIT PETITION (CRIMINAL) NO. 280 OF 2026

IN THE MATTER OF:

FREE SPEECH COLLECTIVE

...PETITIONER

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA AND ORS.

...RESPONDENTS

FILING MEMO

SN	Particulars	Copies	Court Fees
1.	Contempt Petition with affidavit	1+3	
2.	Application Seeking Permission to File the Contempt Petition	1+3	
3.	Application of the Petitioner Seeking Exemption from filing Official Translations of Certain Annexures	1+3	
2.	Vakalatnama	1	

Place: New Delhi
Date: 12.10.2026

Filed By:

Aarthi Rajan

AARTHI RAJAN

Advocate for the Petitioner
CODE 2547

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL INHERENT JURISDICTION

CONTEMPT PETITION (CIVIL) DIARY NO. 63801 OF 2026

IN

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 412/52, Vardaan, 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: 17-12-2026

Aarthi Rajan

AARTHI RAJAN
Advocate on Record
CODE: 2547

Geeta Seshu
PETITIONER
BEFORE ME
[Signature]

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 22.12.2026
6 NEW DELHI

Aarthi Rajan
AARTHI RAJAN
Advocate on Record
CODE: 2547

