

公益社団法人 日本外国特派員協会

## The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan

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### Statement on the Detainment of Indian Journalists Covering Delhi Protests

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan (FCCJ) condemns the detainment on Oct. 10-11 of nearly 30 Indian journalists who were covering protests in New Delhi against the chief election commissioner. The FCCJ demands the immediate release of those journalists still in custody.

<https://thewire.in/media/the-full-list-of-journalists-detained-by-delhi-police-while-covering-the-protests>

The journalists from diverse outlets, such as Indian Express Hindi and Hindustan Times, were reportedly dragged and shoved into buses despite clearly displaying their press badges or noting that they were members of the press. Some of them had their phones snatched; many were taken to locations far from the protest venue.

<https://x.com/anmolpritamND/status/2109209511856644250?s=20>

One independent journalist, Shyam Meera Singh, who had been regularly broadcasting short videos of the protests, had his X account withheld. More disturbingly, Singh had been heckled by a violent mob which he thinks was linked to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), before being detained by the police. Singh alleges that instead of heeding his pleas to stop the mob, the security forces detained him.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OS8espJAHKQ>

To prevent protests, the government shut down the entire metro system in Delhi and suspended internet services. The Supreme Court of India said on Oct. 11 that the government's response to the protests "must be proportionate" and that the journalists cannot be stopped from working.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRF-pEDY54k>

Since Oct. 10, crowds in New Delhi have protested against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over a revision of voter rolls. Critics say the changes could remove millions of voters, disproportionately affecting minorities such as Muslims, who are less likely to support Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his BJP.

The police crackdown also targeted the so-called Cockroach movement, or Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), which has tapped into political, social and economic discontent among young Indians since its founding in May 2026. Its founder, Abhijeet Dipke, and several associates were detained upon arriving in New Delhi but later released.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/indian-capital-braces-second-day-protests-against-poll-chief-2026-10-11>

The Delhi police also detained more than 7,000 people connected to the CJP, effectively stopping them from reaching Jantar Mantar Square for the planned protest against the chief election commissioner. India's nearly billion-strong electorate is the largest in the democratic world. The Delhi protests are the latest and most serious challenge so far to Modi's 12-year rule.

FCCJ Freedom of the Press Committee