



DELHI POLICE
PRESS RELEASE

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RATIONALE FOR RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED IN NEW DELHI

This press release seeks to place the security precautions and temporary restrictions imposed in New Delhi, particularly in and around Jantar Mantar, in their proper context.

The right to peaceful protest is an important democratic right. At the same time, New Delhi houses important establishments and offices of constitutional authorities and the safety and convenience of residents, workers, commuters and businesses must also be protected. Delhi Police is responsible for safeguarding all these interests while maintaining public order.

The circumstances surrounding the protests held at Jantar Mantar in July must be taken into consideration. Permission was granted for a one-day protest, but the gathering continued for approximately a month. During this period, more than 200 police personnel were injured and over 2,000 individuals with criminal antecedents reportedly participated in the protests, contributing to incidents of violence. As the situation escalated, clashes occurred, resulting in injuries to innocent students as well.

The safety of peaceful protesters, police personnel deployed on duty and members of the public passing through the area is paramount. Such incidents must not be allowed to recur.

The same group is now seeking to assemble at the same location again. In view of the previous experience, adequate arrangements to ensure public safety and maintain law and order are essential before any such gathering can be permitted. Further, reports of the molestation and assault of women constables of Delhi Police by individuals participating in protests at Jantar Mantar during the past week are a matter of grave concern and are being taken seriously.

There are also practical limitations regarding the capacity of the proposed venue. Jantar Mantar is a relatively small area that can safely accommodate approximately 1,000 people at a time. The number of people who can be accommodated at any location is necessarily limited by

considerations of space, crowd management, emergency access and public safety.

As the national capital and a major economic centre, Delhi must continue to function without avoidable disruption. Delhi Police is required to balance the interests of those wishing to exercise their right to protest with the safety, mobility and economic well-being of the city's residents, workers, traders and other stakeholders.

Achieving this balance requires advance planning and cooperation from protest organisers. Seeking prior permission for a protest is not contrary to democratic principles; it is an essential administrative measure to ensure that the authorities are informed about the proposed location, duration and anticipated size of the gathering. This enables appropriate arrangements for traffic management, emergency services, crowd regulation and the safe movement of people. Such arrangements help facilitate peaceful demonstrations while minimising inconvenience to the general public and allowing essential activities, including commercial and business operations, to continue.

In the present instance, the CJP is proceeding with its proposed gathering without obtaining the requisite permission. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has also emphasised the importance of complying with applicable legal requirements governing public demonstrations. Organisers must ensure that participants are made aware of the applicable legal position and the consequences of participating in an unauthorised gathering, as provided under law.

The restrictions being implemented today are temporary and precautionary in nature. Their purpose is to regulate the movement of people, prevent overcrowding, maintain public order and ensure the safety of protesters, residents, shopkeepers, commuters and other persons in the affected areas.

People should be able to raise their concerns peacefully. Our responsibility is to create the conditions in which they can do that safely, while keeping the city functioning. That is the reason for these precautions.

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