

Trains cut, Internet down: Delhi turns a fortress ahead of protest

Police deny permission for the CJP protest at Jantar Mantar; Home Ministry directs States, Union Territories to prevent protesters from entering capital; around 13,000 additional Central security personnel deployed amid heightened security

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Friday denied permission to the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) to hold its proposed protest at Jantar Mantar on Saturday, citing alleged violations of conditions agreed upon for an earlier demonstration, even as authorities rolled out an extensive security plan across the national capital.

Despite the denial of permission, the CJP released a poster that says “Final Call To Save Democracy”, asking its supporters to reach Jantar Mantar at 10 a.m. on October 10 as they look to go ahead with the protest demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the roll-back of the special intensive revision of electoral rolls.

Authorities have taken several measures ahead of the protest, including internet curbs in parts of Delhi, the shutting down of markets and Metro stations, and the cancelling of dozens of trains bound for the capital.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) directed all States and Union Territories (U.T.s) to coordinate with the Delhi Police and take preventive measures to stop the movement of protesters towards Delhi. In a communication sent to Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police (DGP), Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan drew attention to the “grave law-and-order and public-order implications” arising from the proposed protest.

The letter noted that the Delhi Police had categorically rejected the CJP’s request to hold the gathering. The communication further said the CJP and supporting organisations



Under wraps: Glass panels at a Metro station are covered ahead of Saturday’s Cockroach Janta Party protest near Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Repeal all State polls: INDIA bloc

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The INDIA bloc on Friday urged President Droupadi Murmu to “repeal” all Assembly elections held over the last two years, saying they have “inconvertible proof”

of “vote chori” (theft). Before their meeting with the President, the Opposition leaders gathered at the central hall of Samvidhan Sadan, where, according to sources, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi

had a “documented history of non-compliance with lawful directions” during previous mobilisations, adding that earlier protests involving participants travelling from different States had resulted in significant disruption to public order and damage to public property, the letter, seen by *The Hindu*, said.

The letter cited intelligence inputs as indicating that the CJP and its supporters intended to defy statutory restrictions and attempt entry into Delhi from various States and U.T.s.

“To pre-empt any breach of public tranquillity and to safeguard critical infrastructure,” the Home Ministry directed States to “immediately operationalise preventive measures in coordination with the Delhi Police and within the framework of law”.

The Ministry emphasised continuous, real-time intelligence-sharing among State intelligence agencies, transit authorities and the Delhi Police to ensure coordinated action. The Ministry called for the strict implementation of the directions to uphold the rule of law.

Around 6,000 additional security personnel – 40 companies of the Indo-Ti-

betan Border Police (ITBP) and 20 companies of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), the primary border-guarding forces along the border with China and Nepal, respectively – were deployed in Delhi for “law-and-order duty” on the instructions of the Union Home Ministry. This deployment is in addition to the 7,000 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel pulled from Chhattisgarh and West Bengal, as well as personnel of the Delhi Police.

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Blanket transit ban in capital ‘over-reaching’, says top court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday found the Delhi Police’s move to shut down free movement to and within the national capital ahead of the protests on Saturday “over-reaching”. The court told the Union government and the Delhi Police that a “distinction exists between total ‘prohibition’ and the ‘regulation’ of Metro and other train movements”.

A three-judge Bench drew an assurance from Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta that he would “impress upon the authorities to reassess the travel prohibitions”.

Choosing gentle persuasion over a legal showdown in the courtroom, the court pressed for the operation of Metro and other rail services in the national capital in a “suitable and regulated manner”. “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,” the court directed in a four-page order.

The Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, did not expand on what it exactly meant by a “suitable and regulated manner”, but indicated the restrictions must be proportionate.

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Appeals for return to voter list should be heard first: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday orally suggested that lakhs of voters seeking inclusion in the West Bengal electoral roll deserved to be heard first, while appeals for exclusion pending before the Appellate Tribunals could be heard last.

An affidavit filed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) in the Supreme Court in September 2026 revealed that more than 22 lakh voters purged from the electoral roll during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in West Bengal, on grounds such as “logical discrepancies”, had filed appeals challenging their exclusion.

The EC affidavit had said that 16.10 lakh appeals had been filed against inclusion. The poll body had said a total of 38.31 lakh appeals were filed in the tribunals in the State.

The 19 Appellate Tribunals are struggling under a massive backlog, with 37.05 lakh of the 38.31 lakh appeals currently stuck in limbo. At the present pace, clearing the backlog will take more than 12 years, one of the petitioners, Con-



gress leader Prasenjit Bose, has argued.

So far, the Appellate Tribunals, according to ECI statistics, have disposed of only 3% of the total appeals filed.

In an oral mentioning, senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for Mr. Bose, and advocates Prashant Bhushan and Neha Rathi, representing five disentitled voters, said these voters should be allowed to cast their vote in the Municipal elections scheduled for November 2026.

“We are already working on the issue of the pending appeals. We will find a via media [middle path] solution. There are appeals by persons seeking inclusion. They will be taken first,” Chief Justice Surya Kant said orally.

INDIA REMAINS VULNERABLE TO SUPPLY DISRUPTIONS

Critical minerals stockpiling policy likely in a month

Pratyush Deep
New Delhi, October 9

THE CENTRE is planning to come up with a new policy on stockpiling of critical minerals within a month amid increasing concerns around supply chain disruptions, and to cut import dependency. "We are making very elaborate plans for the stockpiles," said Keshav Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Mines, speaking at India Mines and Minerals Conclave 2026 organised by Industry body ASSOCHAM.

The policy is likely to be finalised within a month, he added.

A stockpile is a strategic reserve maintained to ensure an uninterrupted supply of critical minerals. Notably, critical minerals such as copper, lithium, nickel, cobalt and rare earth elements are essential raw materials required to fuel the growth of clean energy technologies and their expanding uses across wind turbines, electricity networks, electric vehicles and battery manufacturing.

However, India has little processing capacity for these critical minerals and is 100% import-dependent for most of these minerals. India's efforts to secure critical mineral assets overseas are also facing a series of hurdles.

The government's flagship overseas acquisition vehicle, Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL), has struggled to expand its overseas footprint in mineral-rich countries such as Australia, Vietnam, Mali and Chile, as proposed investments in critical mineral extraction projects have either stalled or fallen through.

So far, progress has been limited to Argentina, where it has acquired five lithium brine blocks in Catamarca province.

China controls 90% of global critical mineral processing and



A stockpile is a strategic reserve maintained to ensure an uninterrupted supply of critical minerals. REUTERS

often uses it as leverage during times of trade tensions.

To safeguard the country from any supply disruptions, India's National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM) has proposed to develop a National Critical Mineral Stockpile Programme for stockpiling critical and strategic minerals. For the development of such a reserve, the government also commits to allocate Rs 500 crore for the mission period of seven years, from 2024-25 to 2030-31.

The National Critical Minerals Stockpile will have at least 5 critical minerals, designed to mitigate risks from global supply chain disruptions and ensure that essential minerals are available to meet domestic needs during emergencies.

"A joint initiative between central PSUs or with private companies shall be institutionalised to develop a National Critical Mineral Stockpile Programme, for stockpiling critical and strategic minerals, to guard against supply disruptions and aid mineral supply for domestic utilisation," a government document on NCMM released in 2025 said.

Push for critical mineral processing

Given India's limited critical mineral processing capacity and China's dominance in the sector, the country remains vulnerable to supply disruptions. To address this strategic vulnerability, India is stepping up policy measures to expand domestic processing capacity and reduce its dependence on China.

To boost domestic processing capacity, the government has identified four states — Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat and Maharashtra — to promote the setting up of critical mineral processing plants.

Chandra said that the government plans to develop every park as a complete ecosystem for a particular mineral. Accordingly, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh are looking at rare earth processing, while Odisha and Maharashtra are set to focus on nickel and lithium, respectively.

He also stressed the need for developing indigenous technology for critical mineral processing.

FULL REPORT ON

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Musk escalates row over Starlink's India launch

New Delhi: A day after his 'Ambani is the real boss of India,' comment, Elon Musk has doubled down on his tirade against the delay in the launch of his satellite communications company, Starlink, in India.

In a post on X, Musk wrote, "Dear Prime Minister Ambani, Please accept my humble apologies for not realizing that you are the real boss of India. Naturally, you would prefer to maintain your monopolistic exploitation of the great people of India, but would you nonetheless consider allowing Starlink to com-

pete?" "There are many areas of India, as there are in all countries, with no Internet access, which denies children the opportunity for education and for small businesses the opportunity to sell their goods to a global market. Starlink would change their lives for the better," he said.

"Starlink has proven to be essential for saving lives during natural disasters throughout the world, when all other communications systems have failed, so you would also be helping save men, women and children throughout India," Musk added. **ENS**

G20 statement on global overcapacity: Views of India, US may be converging

Ravi Dutta Mishra

New Delhi, October 9

THE US said Wednesday that 14 countries, including India, the European Union, Australia and Japan, have "acknowledged" that structural excess capacity and production in any country pose significant challenges for all of its trading partners and have decided to take "effective actions" in addressing the challenge.

A joint statement released by Washington after G20 Trade Ministers, who met in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on September 30 and October 1, said that sectors of concern include automobile, electric vehicle, batteries, chemicals, foundational semiconductors and solar panels. China is often accused of having overcapacity in most of these sectors.

"We are committed to meeting before December 2026, at the technical level, to develop terms of reference; share non-confidential information and data on struc-

tural excess capacity and production, its impact on these sectors, and efforts to mitigate the damage; and identify information gaps, drawing upon work of the OECD and other sources as appropriate," the joint statement said.

Trade ministers of Argentina, Australia, Canada, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Poland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, and the United States welcomed the US G20 Presidency's focus on the issue of overcapacity, said the joint statement.

"We commit to exploring effective and, whenever possible, complementary actions to defend our economies from the negative impact on trade and workers created by structural excess capacity and production. Working together, we aim to create the conditions necessary so that market-oriented competition in affected sectors can thrive once again," the statement said.

The joint statement, which talks about taking action on sectors that are facing the adverse impact of overcapacity, comes amid the US Section 301 investigation on overcapacity. Experts said that India being part of the joint statement could mean USTR may not go forward with proposed tariffs on India under this section.

In the past too, tariffs on India were reduced from 12.5% proposed earlier during the year to 10% after New Delhi released a notification banning importation of goods produced through forced labour. The convergence on overcapacity between India and the US also comes as the US is expected to release the results of the Section 301 investigation in a few weeks.

Apart from the G20 Trade Ministers meeting, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal had also held bilateral negotiations with the US on the prospects of the trade deal, and trade experts pointed out that India's commitment to take action to

address overcapacity-related concerns could help get better rates than those of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) competitors and China.

The Section 301 investigation on overcapacity is evaluating countries such as China, the European Union (EU), Singapore, Switzerland, Norway, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, Korea (South Korea), Vietnam, Taiwan, Bangladesh, Mexico, Japan and India.

The joint statement also said that trade ministers decided by consensus to participate in an Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Steel Committee meeting that led to the creation of the Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity as a cooperative platform dedicated to developing and implementing collective solutions to address structural excess capacity and production and enhance market function in the steel sector.

FULL REPORT ON

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India's share of global greenfield investments more than double China's during 2020-25

A report by the UN Conference on Trade and Development says greenfield investments are increasingly taking place in strategic sectors; It added that India remains the fastest-growing major economy, even though domestic consumption is starting to show signs of strain due to higher prices

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India's share in global greenfield investments during 2020-25, at 5.7%, is more than double China's share in such investments during the same period, according to the latest report by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

However, it also said investment in strategic sectors still remains concentrated in Europe and North America, highlighting the integration challenges for the Global South.

The latest Trade and Development Report 2026 report by UNCTAD, released on Friday, said that greenfield investments were increasingly being made in strategic sectors. Greenfield investments refer to those made by companies in new ventures in another country.

Strategic investments
According to the data in the report, India accounted for 5.7% of global greenfield investments during 2020 to 2025, followed by Malaysia (4%), Indonesia (3.8%), and China (2.8%).

"From 2020 to 2025,



Lion's share: Among these strategic sectors, AI infrastructure and related technologies attracted the largest share. REUTERS

strategic sectors grew from 16% to 44% of global greenfield investment, which captures both their rapid progression and current importance," UNCTAD said

in the report.

Among these strategic sectors, artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure and related technologies attracted the largest share

of 12.4% of the \$845.7 billion of overall global greenfield investment that took place within this period. AI infrastructure was followed by the semiconductor value chain (8.1%) and energy transition technologies and services (7.8%).

"The geographic disparity in strategic investment underscores the growing integration challenges for the Global South, especially for the least developed countries," the UNCTAD report said.

It pointed out that Europe accounted for 28.4% of strategic investment and North America captured

another 28%.

"Even among developing economies, capital is primarily funnelled into developing Asia (26.5%), with China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore as leading jurisdictions for new investments," the report said.

The report also shows that India ranks high in terms of the number of industrial policies it has implemented over the last two decades or so. During 2008-21, India implemented 1,416 industrial policies, behind only China (4,201) and the U.S. (4,025).

UP Cabinet passes proposal to rename Noida airport as Narendra Modi International Airport

Bhupendra Pandey
Lucknow, October 9

THE UTTAR Pradesh government passed a proposal to rename Noida International Airport as 'Narendra Modi International Airport' in a Cabinet meeting on Friday morning. CM Yogi Adityanath said the decision was taken to mark completion of 25 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public life and express the state government's gratitude for his "guidance and contribution" to the state's development.

"The Noida International Airport is a major gift to Uttar Pradesh from the Prime Minister," said Adityanath. "In the coming years, this airport will take the state's economy, industry, tourism and global connectivity to new heights. With this very sentiment, the Cabinet has



Flights from the airport currently connect passengers to five destinations across the country. EXPRESS

passed the proposal."

The Cabinet passed a congratulatory resolution. On October 7, Modi completed 25 years as head of a government.

The airport, which was inaugurated by Modi in March, is the second international airport in the National Capital Region. Commercial operations

kicked off in June.

Flights from NIA currently connect passengers to five destinations across the country: Amritsar, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Jammu and Navi Mumbai. By the end of this year, international flight operations are expected to begin.

Designed and built by an

arm of Zurich Airport International AG, the airport opened after a nearly two-year delay. The initial phase includes a single runway and passenger terminal capacity handling up to 12 million passengers annually. The second phase is expected to be operational in 2031-32. Adityanath described NIA as the state's largest airport and said it will be developed into one of the country's major aviation hubs, strengthening connectivity with the expressways built across the state.

The CM said the PM's 25-year journey in public life had been guided by the principles of "service, dedication and nation first". "It is not merely a journey of power or governance, but one from public service to public welfare and from public participation to public trust," he said.

TRUMP ADMN MOVES AGAINST IT FIRMS

Deeply offensive, do not advance shared ambitions: India on Vance, US steps

Do not view immigration, skilled talent mobility through same lens: Nasscom

Shubhajit Roy & Divya A

New Delhi, October 9



EXPLAINED

THE US decision to suspend eight IT firms, including Microsoft, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys and Wipro, from a programme to apply for green cards for foreign workers drew a sharp response from India Friday which said the steps announced “do not advance the shared ambitions” of both countries.

On US Vice President J D Vance referring to foreign workers hired on H1-B visas as “foreign indentured servants”, the Ministry of External Affairs said “resorting to terminology that carries painful historical and colonial legacy connotations is deeply offensive”.

Delhi’s response came hours after the US administration suspended some of the lar-

Widening of crackdown

The latest US action is a clear broadening of crackdown on foreign workers that has become a central policy under Trump. Technology and IT services companies are facing greater scrutiny over their reliance on foreign workers. US authorities have stepped up their probe into alleged misuse of H-1B and PERM programmes.

gest IT outsourcing firms in the world from the Permanent Labour Certification Programme.

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'Pak. has substantial forces deployed in Saudi Arabia'

Pakistani personnel won't cross into another territory to attack the Houthis, but will defend Saudi territory, says Foreign Ministry; deal signed in August vows mutual help if any member is attacked

Agence France-Presse

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has a "substantial" number of forces deployed in Saudi Arabia acting in a defensive capacity, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Friday.

"From Pakistan already we have substantial number of forces as well as resources in town, in Riyadh," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan told presspersons, without specifying whether the deployment had grown under a major defence pact inked this year with Turkiye and Saudi Arabia.



Show of support: Military leaders of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye during a meeting in Riyadh in September. REUTERS

He added Pakistani military personnel in the kingdom "would not be crossing the borders of the other side for an attack on the Houthis, but of course

[is acting] in the defence of the territory".

Pakistan signed a defence agreement with Saudi Arabia and Turkiye in August committing the

three countries to come to each other's aid in the event one was attacked.

The conflict between the Houthis (Ansar Allah) and Yemen's Saudi-backed government has widened, with the militant group staging repeated attacks on Saudi targets since they began a lightning offensive just across the border.

Mr. Khan declined to say whether new Pakistani deployments had been made since Saudi Arabia's conflict intensified and said "how much and when and where" forces would be deployed would be up to the trilateral alliance, which is headquartered in Riyadh.