

Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka detained by Delhi Police amid protest near PM residence

NEW DELHI, JUL 21: Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were detained by the Delhi Police on Tuesday while leading a protest near Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official residence at Lok Kalyan Marg, where Congress leaders were demanding accountability over the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak and seeking the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

While being detained by the Delhi Police, Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said "They are cowards. They are scared. We are not scared of them. They are scared of us."

Police attempted to forcibly removed Rahul Gandhi from the site and were seen carrying him to the bus.

Several Congress leaders and workers were also detained as police dispersed the demonstrators, who had marched from Rajaji Marg to Lok Kalyan Marg after alleging police brutality against students protesting over the paper leak a day earlier.

Speaking to news agency from inside a police van after being detained, Congress MP Randeep Singh Surjewala said the protest marked the beginning of a larger movement against the government.

"This is not the end; it marks the beginning of a new revolution under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi. They may imprison us, lathi-



charge us, or mistreat us, but Modi ji will have to answer to the millions of sons and daughters of India who have lost their future and seen the hopes of their families extinguished due to paper leaks. This revolution will now blaze into a mighty inferno; under Rahul Gandhi's leadership, it will not be stopped," Surjewala said.

Karnataka CM DK Shivakumar said, "It is unfortunate that Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi (were detained). We are all fighting for the cause of the students of this country. We want justice. We want this to be discussed in the Parliament... More than 100 MPs are here. No one is afraid of being arrested... This movement will continue till justice is given..."

The detentions came shortly after Union Minister of State in the Prime Minis-

ter's Office Jitendra Singh alleged that Rahul Gandhi had gone back on his word during talks held near the protest site.

In a post on X, Singh said he, along with Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, was deputed by the government to engage with the Congress leadership after they began their sit-in protest near Akbar Road.

According to Singh, Rahul Gandhi initially agreed to end the protest if the government accepted the demand for a discussion in Parliament on the NEET issue and the ongoing student movement. He claimed that after the government agreed to the demand, Gandhi added another condition by insisting on the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Singh further alleged that Gandhi refused to vacate the

site despite being informed that it was not designated for protests and accused the Congress leader of acting contrary to democratic norms. He also claimed that while the government was ready for a discussion in Parliament on all issues related to NEET, the Congress had not submitted any formal notice seeking such a debate under parliamentary rules.

The Congress protest followed a day of heightened political confrontation over the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak and police action against unarmed student protesters. Parliament witnessed repeated disruptions as Opposition parties sought a discussion on the issue, while Congress maintained that the Centre must take responsibility for the examination controversy and the alleged police excesses against students. (Agencies)

Rahul, Kharge Hold Protest Sit-In Outside PM's House, Demand Resignation; MoS Jitendra Singh Meets LoP

NEW DELHI, JUL 21: Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, accompanied by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and several top leaders, sat on a protest dharna outside the Prime Minister's Lok Kalyan Marg residence on Tuesday and demanded the resignation of PM Narendra Modi over police action against students protesting on the NEET paper leak issue.

After nearly 20 minutes, Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Jitendra Singh met Gandhi at the protest site and urged him to end his dharna. The unprecedented scenes unfolded soon after Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra met the injured students at a hospital here.

Singh was accompanied by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan at the protest site.

Gandhi, along with Kharge and chief ministers of Karnataka DK Shivakumar and Kerala CM V D Satheesan, besides several Congress MPs, raised slogans against the Prime Minister outside his residence.



Several MPs also accused the police of using force against them in their bid to remove them from the protest site.

The Congress leaders earlier marched to the prime minister's residence against what they alleged were "police brutalities" on the young students during the CJP-led protest march to Parliament on Monday.

"We have marched to PM Modi's house to demand answers from him for the brutalities against young students yesterday. The Government doesn't want to take any accountability, nor does it want to have a debate

on it in Parliament," Gandhi said in a post on X. "The Prime Minister and Home Minister must resign for destroying the future of India's youth," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said.

The Congress Party stands with the students' rights and their legitimate demands.

Kharge said the Congress leaders were sitting on a dharna outside the Prime Minister's residence.

"This cowardly authoritarian government will have to answer for the lathi charge and use of force.

"Modi-Shah are guilty against our youth; they will have to resign," he said in a

post on X.

Gandhi, along with his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other Congress leaders, earlier met some of the students injured in Monday's police action at the Ram Manohar Lohia hospital.

Congress leaders alleged that they have always stood with the rights of youth and students and their demands.

"This arrogant and dictatorial government will have to answer for the brutal lathi charge on students. This arrogant government is guilty of the crime against the youth; they will have to resign," said Randeep Surjewala in a post on X. (Agencies)

Kejriwal seeks release of FIR, detainee lists after CJP protest

NEW DELHI, JULY 21: Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday wrote a letter to DCP, New Delhi, seeking immediate release of the lists of FIRs and detained protesters following the Cockroach Janta Party protest.

Kejriwal also visited the Parliament Street police station and reiterated the demands before Delhi Police.

"I am given to understand that a number of FIRs have been registered against the people who were protesting at Jantar Mantar yesterday demanding accountability from Prime Minister Narendra Modi about failures in the education system," Kejriwal said in his letter to Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) New Delhi Sachin Sharma.



"I am also given to understand that a number of people have been held in custody after the protest without any registration of FIRs," he added. Kejriwal demanded that the lists of FIRs and detained protesters be made public immediately so that

legal assistance could be provided to those affected.

The former Delhi chief minister also visited the Mandir Marg police station where he met some of the detained protesters and assured them of support.

Reached Mandir Marg police station. Not 11, but 17

youth have been arrested here. Now 6 are being taken to Parliament police station. After getting 11 released, we will proceed to Parliament police station to get the remaining 6 also released. In the meanwhile, 60 have been released from Ashok Vihar," Kejriwal said in post on X.

"We have received two complaints on the helpline number since its launch, and we have given the details to the police. One student is missing, the parents are looking for him," he told reporters outside the police station.

Earlier in the day, AAP had launched a helpline number to provide medical aid to injured protesters and legal assistance to the families of detained students. (PTI)

Haryana Police seals Shambhu border point as farmers head to Delhi for Kisan Mahapanchayat

SHAMBHU/AMBALA, JULY 21: Haryana Police erected barricades and placed cement blocks at the Shambhu border point on Tuesday morning, with Punjab farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher accusing the Nayab Singh Saini government of preventing them from proceeding towards Delhi to participate in the Kisan Mahapanchayat against the proposed India-US trade deal.

Carrying flags of their outfits, farmers from several places in Punjab gathered at the border point in the morning to head towards the national capital. A day-long "Kisan Mahapanchayat" is being organised at Kisan Ghat in Delhi under the banner of "Desh Bachao Morcha".

Heavy police deployment was made at the Shambhu border point between Punjab and Haryana, and the bridge over the Ghaggar river was fenced to stop the farmers.

Farmer leaders had earlier said that participants from several places, including those in Punjab and Haryana, would take part in the Mahapanchayat.

As part of the plan, hundreds of farmers from across Punjab planned to travel to Delhi in buses.

Pandher said they wanted to proceed peacefully to Delhi, but the Haryana government was stopping them



at the Shambhu border.

He added that farmers want the proposed India-US trade agreement to be completely scrapped.

Bharatiya Kisan Union (Shaheed Bhagat Singh) leader Tejveer Singh said the Haryana Police has sealed the Shambhu border point without any prior notice.

The farmers' convoy departed from Gurdwara Sri Fatehgarh Sahib on Tuesday morning. More than a thousand farmers had spent Monday night at the sarai (pilgrims' inn) of the gurdwara.

From the gurdwara, they reached Madhopur, near Sirhind on the GT Road, and then proceeded towards Shambhu.

In Haryana's Kurukshetra, farmers claimed that they were stopped near Jyotisar.

In view of the farmers' protest, Haryana Police has issued a traffic advisory to avoid delays and inconveniences.

The advisory asked commuters to take the Ambala Cantonment-Chandigarh-Lalru-Dera Bassi-Zirakpur route to go to Punjab. Those going to Delhi from Punjab can take the Rajpura-Lalru-Dera Bassi-Zirakpur-Ambala Cantonment route, it said.

On Monday, Bharatiya Kisan Union (Charuni) chief Gurnam Singh Charuni was detained by police in Kurukshetra while he was heading to Delhi for the Mahapanchayat.

The outfit's spokesperson, Prince Waraich, claimed that the Haryana Police had been detaining a large number of the outfit's workers to prevent their participation

in the protest.

Farmers have been strongly opposing the India-US trade deal, claiming that it would adversely impact the country's farming sector.

They claimed that the proposed trade deal would allow cheaper agricultural imports into India, affecting domestic farm incomes and the country's agricultural economy.

This would adversely affect farmers, agricultural labourers, livestock rearers, small traders and micro industries, they said.

The farmers said that the proposed agreement would not be limited to a few commodities but several, including agriculture, dairy, industry, digital trade, e-commerce, Government procurement, intellectual property rights, and the services sector.

NEW DELHI, JULY 21: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi must apologise to students for the police brutality against them and resign along with Home Minister Amit Shah.

Interacting with reporters in Parliament House complex, Gandhi added that he met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in the morning along with other MPs and conveyed that the opposition wants to discuss the students' issue.

"He (Birla) said he will have to ask the government. So understand, the speaker is telling us that to debate in Parliament he has to take permission from the government," Gandhi said.

"The issue is of students and future's youth and the way people are being beaten up, this is completely 'unIndian'. Modi ji has not even apologised for what has happened yesterday," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said.

These students are protesting over the education and testing system, he said.

"The whole country knows that the education system and the testing system is broken and has ceased to exist," he said.

"The young people of this



Thousands of young and angry people converged near Parliament on the first day of the Monsoon session on Monday to push for the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, only to be pushed back by lathis and teargas shells.

According to Gandhi, the testing system has been hollowed out by termites and that is what the students are stating.

"There is nothing wrong with it. We have been saying this, I have been doing presentation after presentation about this. Why is the prime minister silent? What is the reason? He should apologise to the students and stop this nonsense of police people thrashing students, it is completely wrong," Gandhi said.

The point is that this is no way to treat the young people of this country, he said.

"The young people of this

country do not have any opportunities. All the doors are closed. There is only one door that is open, which is the door of the competitive exam and that door is also destroyed," he said.

The students are not just complaining about the education system but about their future, he said.

"They are saying that 'in this country today, because of Mr Adani and Mr Ambani, because of the RSS' complete takeover of the education system, because of 'pracharaks' becoming vice chancellors of universities, we have no future'. This is not just about education, this is about the future of young people.

"They look at Mr Ambani's wedding and they watch thousand crores being spent over there and they have no money to open a business if they want, they have no fu-

ture. That is what this is about, this is much bigger than simply education. This is students of this country saying -- 'in India, we have no future, we want a future'," Gandhi said.

He said the students demands are legitimate and there was nothing wrong with that.

"Instead of saying 'ok, we are going to work to improve the education system, we are going to work to fix the testing system', the prime minister, I don't know what he is doing?" he said.

Asked about the opposition's demand that Pradhan should resign, Gandhi said Pradhan is an intermediary.

"Absolutely, he should resign but Dharmendra Pradhan has not beaten up these students, but the home minister (Amit Shah) has, he should resign and the home minister reports to the prime minister, he should resign," Gandhi said.

Tagging a clip of his remarks, Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X, "The country's students are saying -- 'We have no future'. And this government's ministers are saying - 'We won't lose our seats.' In a country where students lose their future and ministers don't lose their seats -- there is no justice at all."

ED raids in Bengaluru ISIS radicalisation case

BENGALURU, JULY 21: The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday conducted searches at multiple locations in Karnataka as part of a money laundering probe in a case linked to radicalisation of youth to join banned international terrorist group ISIS, officials said.

They said about eight locations in and around Bengaluru were raided by the

central agency. The action is being undertaken as per the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The investigation stems from a National Investigation Agency (NIA) FIR related to ISIS recruitment involving Iqra Welfare Trust, Guidance for Mankind and certain individuals.

The NIA has chargesheeted five persons

alleging that the accused-- affiliated with the banned terrorist organisation ISIS/ISIL/Daesh-- entered into a criminal conspiracy to radicalise and motivate impressionable Muslim youth of Bengaluru to join the ISIS. These accused identified, radicalised, and recruited youths through a Muslim 'personality development' workshop called 'Iqra Camp' and a weekly

study circle called "Quran Circle" that grew out of it; raised and channelled funds; and facilitated the illegal travel of recruits to Syria via Turkiye to join the ISIS and fight against the government of Syria.

These acts have been mentioned in the NIA chargesheet as "waging war against Syria, an Asiatic Power in alliance with the Government of India."