



Public Transport Forum Delhi Statement on Metro Closures During the Youth Protest

Date: 24 July 2026

The **Public Transport Forum Delhi** stands in solidarity with the young people across Delhi who have come together to peacefully raise their voices. The right to protest is a fundamental pillar of any democracy. Equally, the right to mobility is essential for people to access work, education, healthcare, and public life with dignity.

The decision to close metro stations in response to the protest is deeply concerning. Shutting down public transport should never be the default approach to managing democratic dissent. Such actions inconvenience millions of commuters while creating unnecessary barriers to both peaceful protest and everyday life.

The lack of timely and transparent communication about station closures has further added to confusion and uncertainty. Thousands of commuters were left stranded or forced to alter their travel plans without adequate notice. Public authorities have a responsibility to provide clear, timely, and accessible information whenever public transport services are disrupted.

Public transport is a public good. It enables participation in the social, economic, and democratic life of the city. Restricting access to the metro disproportionately impacts workers, students, women, persons with disabilities, older persons, and low income communities who rely on it the most.

A democratic city must be able to uphold both the right to peaceful assembly and the right to mobility. These rights are not in conflict. Rather, they reinforce one another by ensuring that everyone can participate fully in civic life safely and equitably.

Closing metro stations also pushes more people onto already congested roads, increases travel costs, worsens air pollution, and undermines years of investment in making public transport the backbone of Delhi's mobility system.

The Public Transport Forum Delhi urges the Government of Delhi, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, and law enforcement agencies to avoid blanket transport restrictions and instead adopt proportionate measures that safeguard public safety while protecting democratic freedoms. Where temporary service changes are unavoidable, they must be communicated transparently, in real time, and with adequate advance notice so that commuters can make informed travel decisions.

The solution to peaceful protest cannot be to immobilize an entire city.

The Public Transport Forum Delhi stands with everyone who believes that a democratic city must protect both the freedom to speak and the freedom to move. Public transport should remain open, accessible, and available to all, especially when people are exercising their democratic rights.