

Connaught Place is not a protest site, any agitation would affect biz: Vendor

► From P 1

During the hearing, additional solicitor general (ASG) Chetan Sharma submitted that steps have been taken to control Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)'s activities and assured that the apprehension of the petitioner of a shutdown would be taken care of.

"The petitioner apprehends that the conduct of respondent no. 6 (CJP) is likely to disrupt business activity in Connaught Place... When confronted, the ASG assures that the apprehension of the petitioner shall be taken care of as the respondents have already taken steps in the matter to control and regulate the activity of respondent no. 6 and if so required, all possible steps in accordance with law shall be taken. The assurance is taken on record," HC noted in its order as it listed the matter for further hearing next month.

Even as the senior counsel for the petitioner urged the court to pass a "specific" direction restraining the CJP, the bench said, "Don't insist. We have passed the order." Senior advocate Sachhin Puri, appearing for a licensed street vendor who sells readymade garments at Palika bazaar, argued that Connaught Place was not a designated protest site, and any agitation in Central Park there would affect

their business.

The court observed that the authorities have already notified Jantar Mantar as a designated protest site, and asked why the petitioner apprehended that the police would not take necessary action in relation to the proposed protest. In response, the ASG submitted that the police will "perform its duty".

The petition, filed as a PIL by Anil Kumar Gupta, said that until its de-notification, the conditions governing protests at Jantar Mantar were not enforced, which led to vendors losing business. "On or about 20.07.2026, a large agitation spilled beyond the designated area. The roads around Jantar Mantar and Parliament Street were barricaded and came to a standstill. Customers stopped coming to Connaught Place and Palika Bazaar, and the petitioner could not vend, which caused loss on a daily basis," the plea said.

The matter came up before the bench after it agreed to hear the petition on an urgent basis earlier in the day. "In the heart of Connaught Place Central Park, a protest is called. It seems we are being targeted. This is not a site (for protest). They have already started shutting down. This is the Dussehra weekend. This protest has to be stopped," the petitioner's senior counsel had said.

► From P 1

The 'Leave India Notice' notice issued by FRRO to the actor Wednesday mentions Khan as a US national, saying he contravened the provisions of Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025.

Khan was briefly detained during the protest before being let off. Speaking to media moments before being detained at the protest site, he had said, "I am here as a citizen, as a person who lives in this city. I am here to see why freedom of movement is being restricted, why are people's voices being repressed." Govt has invoked provisions of Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, which replaced the pre-Independence Foreigners Act of 1946, empowering it to ask a foreigner to leave India. The sections invoked by FRRO are Section 7 (2) (c) read with Section 29. Section 29 deals with the power to ask a foreigner to depart India for any violation of provisions that govern foreign nationals under the Act or based on any adverse report submitted.

The controversy erupted after former BJP MP Kirit Somaiya sought action against Khan, saying the actor had no right to protest challenging Indian govt's policy because he was a foreigner. The defence also intends to question the

allegation that Khan participated in the protest in the manner claimed by the complainant. "Let police take out the CCTV footage of the area and everything will be clear," Memon said.

Khan's lawyers, however, contended he did not participate in the protest. According to the defence, he was passing through Nana Chowk when the road was barricaded and media representatives approached him. The legal team plans to seek CCTV footage to establish his movements and determine whether he was an active participant in the demonstration. These are the defence's claims and will need to be tested against evidence.

Police had registered a case against the protestors for illegal assembly since police had not granted them permission for the protest.

Khan, who comes from a family with deep roots in Hindi cinema, is the son of Nuzhat Khan. His maternal grandfather was filmmaker-producer Nasir Hussain while filmmaker Mansoor Khan is his maternal uncle. Khan made his debut as a leading man with 'Jaane Tu... Ya Jaane Na' (2008), produced by Aamir Khan Productions. After staying away from films for nearly a decade, Khan this year again began making his way back to the screen.

GENESIS OF OCI

Constitution bars dual citizenship. Centre introduced OCI under Citizenship Act, 1955, for eligible foreign nationals of Indian origin, including those who were or were eligible to be Indian citizens when Constitution commenced, and their children and grandchildren

OCI RIGHTS AND RESTRICTIONS

- OCI grants eligible foreign nationals of Indian origin lifelong status to live, work and study in India, subject to conditions
- Holders cannot vote, contest elections, hold public office or acquire agricultural land, farmhouses or plantation properties
- Certain missionary, Tablighi and restricted-area activities require prior clearance or permits

CONTROVERSIAL CASES

- Nitasha Kaul** | UK academic deported from Bengaluru airport in Feb 2024; OCI cancelled over alleged anti-India activities
- Aatish Taseer** | Journalist whose OCI was revoked for allegedly concealing his father's Pakistani nationality; blacklisted in 2019
- Ashok Swain** | Sweden-based academic whose OCI was cancelled over alleged anti-India activities. Remains blacklisted despite Delhi HC setting aside cancellation
- Vanessa Dougnac** | French journalist and OCI holder who left India in 2024 after receiving notice



IMMIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS ACT, 2025

Governs foreigners' entry, stay and deportation

Section 7(2)(c): Empowers authorities to issue directions concerning foreigners violating immigration laws, public-order rules or stay conditions

Section 29: Allows Centre to remove foreigners for violating Act, its rules or orders, or on adverse security reports

FRRO notices may cite restricted activities, protests, political campaigns, overstaying, non-registration or adverse security inputs. They specify a departure deadline; non-compliance can invite deportation and criminal prosecution, including fines and imprisonment

Past case | March 3, 2020: Govt told Lok Sabha five foreigners who participated in anti-CAA protests in 2019-20 were asked to leave India. Four were identified: German student **Jakob Lindenthal** (IIT-Madras), Polish student **Kamil Siedcynski** (Jadavpur University), Bangladeshi student **Afsar Anika Meem** (Visva Bharati University) and Norwegian tourist **Janne-Mette Johansson**. Fifth remains unidentified

JUDICIAL PRECEDENTS

- AY Hummetgulyevna (2026)** | Delhi HC held that a valid visa confers no absolute or enforceable right to enter India
- Hans Muller (1955)** | A five-judge SC bench upheld the Centre's discretion to expel foreigners, distinguishing expulsion from extradition
- Louis De Raedt (1991)** | SC held state can expel foreigners. Article 21 applies to citizens and foreigners, but Article 19(1)(e) — right to reside and settle anywhere in India — reserved for citizens. Foreigners have no right to indefinite stay, automatic extensions or permanent residence

ROAD AHEAD FOR ACTOR

- Imran Khan can challenge FRRO notice in court on grounds of arbitrariness, discrimination and violation of the right to equality, which applies to foreigners too
- Can he return from the US? Not until FRRO revokes order or a court stays or quashes it. If his OCI registration is subsequently cancelled, he will need a regular visa, subject to approval

Hasty or legally apt? Experts divided

Swati Deshpande | TNN

Mumbai: Legal experts are divided on the 'Leave India notice' issued to Imran Khan on Thursday. While several question the "haste" and alacrity with which the Office of the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO) issued him the notice four days after the pro-CJP protest, on Oct 14, or its "proportionality", others back the action as "legally appropriate."

Sorab Kirpal, senior advocate from Delhi, said, "An OCI in India does not have the right to protest under Article 19 (1), however even such person has constitutional protection under Article 14 (right to equality) against arbitrary and indiscriminate state action." If court finds the state action prima facie arbitrary, it can stay such action, as interim order, pending further hearing.

Advocate Niteen Pradhan from Mumbai, however, said

"the govt action is in accordance with the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 and legally appropriate since he is a foreign national."

Former SC judge Justice Abhay Oka said, "Govt has apparent power to issue the order which they have. But possibly such orders can be challenged in a case on grounds of violation of Article 21, which deals with right to life and personal liberty since it applies even to non-citizens."

Govt defends order, opposition parties call it wrong

TEAM TOI

Mumbai: While govt defended its decision to ask Imran Khan to leave the country by Oct 28 for flouting immigration laws, opposition questioned the move, alleging double standards in asking Khan to depart while politicians facing serious criminal cases continue to hold public office.

Maharashtra's junior minister for home Yogesh Kadam said, "When you enter a country, a visa is issued and certain conditions are stated. You cannot violate those conditions, and if any violation occurs, the relevant Act applies and a notice issued."

Asked about allegations made by some that Khan was being targeted because he belonged to a particular commu-



“Everyone has the right to protest, irrespective of whether they hold a foreign passport. In a democracy, we can debate on it, but why ask him to leave?”

SUPRIYA SULE
NCP (SP) MP

nity, Kadam said, "One cannot overlook the fact that he is not an Indian citizen. He was issued a visa and must abide by those conditions."

Transport minister Pratap Sarnaik dismissed Khan's protests as an attempt to gain publicity and stay in the limelight amid a lack of work in films and TV.

"It is unfortunate that a person holding US citizenship is staging protests in Maharashtra and India. Job losses in the US are affecting many Indians, some of whom are even being sent back. Why doesn't he (Khan) protest against his country's leadership instead of coming to India to demonstrate?" Sarnaik said. Khan should either leave India before the designated date or relinquish his US citizenship, he said.

Tushar Gandhi, great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, said, "I am appalled by this response from the police, who

have once again showed their servitude to the ruling dispensation. Imran joined a peaceful protest which any Indian has a right to do. PM Modi also organises shows of NRIs cherishing him to show his popularity. Should they be deported for cheering for an alien prime minister? I stand in solidarity with Imran and thank him for supporting my call to join the protest at August Kranti Maidan. The police also need to be freed of their servitude to the govt in power."

Addressing a news conference in Delhi, NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule said, "Everyone has the right to protest, irrespective of whether they hold a foreign passport. In a democracy, we can debate on it, but why ask him to leave the country? Chief ministers facing

serious criminal allegations, including rape and murder, continue to hold office, while Khan has merely participated in a protest."

Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Aaditya Thackeray, who had separately protested at Dadar last week demanding the release of CJP supporters detained in Mumbai, criticised the action against Khan in a social media post. He said, "The protest was peacefully asking the election commission to come clean on vote theft and election rigging. Basically, under this regime, unlike under any other real democratic government around the free world, even holding your national flag, or simply being present at a peaceful demonstration asking for accountability is a crime worth jail!"

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Nodal officer Details: Sh. Narendra Singh, Senior Project Officer-II,
Mob No: 94156 09007

Director, UPNEDA

Government of Uttarakhand
Ayush & Ayush Education Department
Letter No.: 2782/XL-1/2026-12/2023 Dehradun, Dated: 15 October, 2026

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(Ranjana Rajguru, IAS)
Secretary, AYUSH and AYUSH Education/
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Cadaver-content plaint: NHRC warns ministries over delay in reports

Anuja.Jaiswal
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has warned health and information and broadcasting ministries of coercive action if they fail to submit action-taken reports on a complaint about obscene and insensitive digital content involving human cadavers undermining dignity of deceased. The complaint said such content could also erode public confidence in organ and body donation programmes.

In a communication, dated Oct 14, NHRC said the two ministries had failed to submit their reports despite being directed on June 23 to do so within four weeks.

It has now issued a reminder, asking them to submit the reports by Nov 21 for further consideration. The complaint was filed by United Doctors Front (UDF) on June 11. In its representation, the organisation alleged that repeated dissemination of obscene, degrading and insensitive content on the digital comedy platform hosted by Pranit More raised serious human rights concerns over the dignity of women and deceased persons, particularly the alleged trivialisation and sexualisation of human cadavers used in medical education. UDF said every cadaver used in medical education represented a body donated for the advancement of science and deserved dignity and respect. It also argued that such content could discourage prospective donors and undermine public confidence in organ and whole-body donation programmes promoted by govt.

Clarifying that its complaint was not intended to challenge comedy platform itself or interfere with any ongoing investigation, UDF sought scrutiny of the wider societal impact and platform responsibility. It urged the commission to examine the implications for human dignity, medical ethics and public welfare, and issue suitable recommendations or advisories against the commercialisation of such content.

Welcoming the fresh notice, UDF chairperson Dr Lakshya Mittal said the dignity of human cadavers and deceased persons must be protected, adding that insensitive digital content involving human remains should not be allowed to undermine public confidence in organ and body donation.

NHRC said it could invoke its powers under Section 13 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, if the ministries failed to comply with its directions.

re they could be treated. The deceased were identified as Vinod Kumar Singh, 42, Teda Dehari, 19, Sikandar Dehari, 25, all from Jharkhand, and Labhan Mina, 20 from Rajasthan.

Police, revenue officials and a forensic laboratory team launched an investigation to ascertain the cause of the explosion. Kalol police inspector J J Gadhi said a mechanical failure in the reduction vessel may have caused the blast. TNN

4 killed in blast at chemical manufacturing unit in Guj

Ahmedabad: Four workers were killed in a blast at a chemical manufacturing unit in Chhatral GIDC in Gujarat's Gandhinagar district on Thursday afternoon, allegedly after excessive pressure built up in a vessel at the plant.

A preliminary probe suggests the workers were on duty at Covika Dyes and Intermediates when the blast occurred.

All four suffered critical injuries and burns but died before

they could be treated. The deceased were identified as Vinod Kumar Singh, 42, Teda Dehari, 19, Sikandar Dehari, 25, all from Jharkhand, and Labhan Mina, 20 from Rajasthan.

Police, revenue officials and a forensic laboratory team launched an investigation to ascertain the cause of the explosion. Kalol police inspector J J Gadhi said a mechanical failure in the reduction vessel may have caused the blast. TNN