

Protest field guides

Eight guides for staying safe and connected. Each one downloads as a PDF in English or Hindi, so you can keep it on your phone or print it before you go.

Last updated 12 October 2026, 5:53 AM IST.

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Briar: talk without internet

Message phone to phone with no internet.

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OFFLINE FIELD PACK

Briar: talk without internet

Phones pass messages to each other over Bluetooth and Wi-Fi. When any phone gets internet, messages go out to people far away by themselves. Do steps 1–6 **tonight**, while the internet still works.

iPhone users, read this first

Briar works only on Android. There is no iPhone version. If you have an iPhone:

- Carry any old Android phone if you have one. Set Briar up on it tonight. It needs no SIM.
- Otherwise, stay close to a friend with Briar and read updates on their phone.
- Install Signal for when internet comes back. It does not work without internet.

01 Get the app

- Search **Briar** in the Play Store, or use F-Droid, or **briarproject.org**.
- If it's blocked or you have no internet, get it from someone nearby who already has it. See step 04.

02 Make your account

- Pick a nickname. **Not your real name.**
- Pick a password you will remember. There is no "forgot password". If you lose it, the account is gone.
- When Briar asks to stay connected in the background, tap **Allow Connections**, then **Allow**. Otherwise the phone stops passing messages when the screen is off.

03 Turn on all connections

Open the menu  → **Settings** → **Connections**. Turn on all three: **Connect to contacts via the Internet**, **Connect to contacts on the same Wi-Fi network** and **Connect to contacts via Bluetooth**. Bluetooth is off in Briar until you turn it on. Keep Bluetooth on in your phone too.

04 Give the app to others, no internet needed

If you have Briar:

1. Open the menu  → **Settings** → **Share this app offline**, then tap **Start hotspot**. If asked, allow location. Briar needs it to start the hotspot.
2. Your phone makes a Wi-Fi hotspot and shows its network name and password. They stay the same every time. A QR code is on the next tab.
3. Once the other phone has joined the Wi-Fi, tap **Next**. Briar shows a web address and a second QR code.

The person receiving it:

1. Open Wi-Fi settings, pick the network name shown on the other phone and type the password. If the phone says the Wi-Fi has no internet, stay connected anyway. Scanning the QR code also works on some phones, but not all.
2. Type the web address into Chrome or any browser exactly as shown, including **http://** and the number after the colon. Or scan the second QR code.
3. Download the file and tap it. If asked, allow **Install unknown apps** for the browser.

If the address won't load: on the receiving phone, disconnect any VPN app. Then open **Settings** → **Network & internet** → **VPN**, tap the gear next to each VPN, and turn off **Always-on VPN** and **Block connections without VPN**. Otherwise the VPN blocks the address even when it looks switched off. Then try again, or try another browser. If it still fails, the person sharing taps the  help button on the sharing screen → **Save app**, and sends the file by Quick Share or Bluetooth. For Bluetooth, rename the file to end in .zip first.

Each new person can then share it onward. One copy can reach a whole crowd.

05 Add contacts

Briar only talks to people you have added. Tap **+** on the Contacts screen.

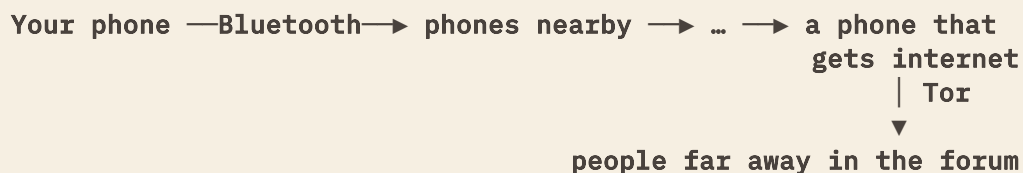
- **Standing together:** **Add contact nearby**. Both phones scan each other's QR code.
- **Far away (family, friends outside the city):** **Add contact at a distance**. Send your link to them on WhatsApp or SMS, paste their link, give them a nickname. **Do this tonight**. It needs internet once.

06 Join the group

- One organiser opens **≡** → **Forums** → **+** and creates a forum.
- Inside the forum, open **:** → **Share Forum**, pick contacts and tap **Share Forum**. They accept the invite.
- Every member can share it onward to their own contacts, so the group grows by itself.
- Add your far-away contacts to the forum too. That is what makes step 07 work.

07 How messages get out automatically

You don't press anything. Briar keeps trying every connection in the background.



- The far-away person must already be a Briar contact of someone in the crowd (step 05) and be in the forum (step 06).
- Their phone must be online at that moment. If they have a spare Android phone, they can set it up as a **Briar Mailbox** at home. It holds messages for them even when their own phone is off.
- Briar cannot post publicly to X or Instagram. Pick one or two people outside to copy important updates from the forum to social media.

08 Test it tonight

Two or three phones: turn on Airplane mode, then turn Bluetooth back on. Send a forum message. It should show up on the other phones within a few minutes. Briar checks for nearby phones every 1 to 10 minutes. If nothing arrives after 10 minutes, check step 03 and battery settings.

09 Stay safe

- Set a phone screen lock. Turn off fingerprint and face unlock before tomorrow.
- Open  → **Sign Out** when you're not using Briar. Nobody can read it without your password.
- **To wipe your account and start fresh:**  → **Sign Out**. On the sign-in screen, tap **Forgot your password?**. Briar warns that this deletes your account, contacts and messages. Tap **Delete**, then create a new account.
- In one-to-one chats, open  → **Disappearing messages** and turn it on.
- Don't write names, phone numbers or plans you wouldn't want read aloud. Anyone in a forum can share it onward.
- Briar's distribution has been ordered blocked in India.

DETENTION

Detention Handbook for Patriots

So you've been detained, now what?

01 What is a detention?

A detention is NOT an arrest.

A detention is when you're temporarily stopped or kept by the police for a while. The police don't accuse you of an offence. Arresting civilians is harder and involves a lot of work, so the police relies on detentions as an easy tool to slow down or hamper a protest.

It looks amazing as a reel, but you should try your best to stay away from a detention. The strength of our protests lies in our numbers and the best thing you can do for the protest is save yourself. If they take away enough of us, the protest dies. That's what happened in Delhi on the 10th of October.

02 Minors under detention

The police can not legally detain anyone under the age of 18. Our first priority is the safety of our children.

If you notice a minor on the detention bus, your first step should be to start demanding their release with an adult who can act as their guardian. Make a record of the child's age, if they were also subjected to police brutality, and how long they keep them detained.

03 **What are your rights when detained?**

- You cannot be kept in police custody for more than 24 hours without being produced before a Magistrate - excluding travel time. This is why the police will sometimes just drive the bus around for hours.
- The police can not seize your belongings, phone, bag, etc. They might try but it is illegal, if they do try it with you make sure you record the act and try to get their name plate in the video if possible.
- The police can not physically harm you. They still might - record the act and try to get their name plate if possible.
- A male police officer is not allowed to detain or search a female protester. Ask for a female officer to be present at all times if there are womxn in the detained group.
- Female detainees can not be kept in the police station beyond sunset (usually 7:30 PM). They might try to keep you, record a video of you asking a police officer about why you're not being let out past sunset.

04 What to do when you are detained?

- Assuming you were unable to run away immediately, don't try to physically resist the detention as it will make it more likely for you to get hurt.
- Record a video of yourself talking about the detention, the number of people in your bus, police brutalities if any, if there are women constables in the bus, and where the police finally drops you off. Record the faces of the police officers with you from a safe distance.
- If they ask for your name and address, give them your actual information. The police sometimes comes to the address and checks if it is valid, giving false information can lead to an arrest.
- Remember your rights from the previous section. Do not give away your belongings, phone, etc.
- Inform someone who can help you get back home after the police leaves you.
- Inform a doctor if you or anyone else in the bus has been injured. The police is required by law to give you a medical exam, but they often try to water down the severity of injuries. Having a doctor present will ensure they are unable to do this.
- Inform a friend who is outside the protest area. If you don't have enough battery, don't share your live location with a friend. Save your battery and keep sharing your location every 30 minutes or so.
- Inform a lawyer about the detention, the number of people in the bus, number of women in the bus, whether there's a female constable. Tell them your location once the bus finally stops.

05 What to do if your friend is detained?

- If you are in the protest area, send the detainee's name and phone number to a friend who is outside the protest area.
- If you are not in the protest area, inform a lawyer and a doctor. Contact the detainee every 30 minutes or so to keep a track of their location.

06 What to do after you've been let out?

- Female and minor detainees will be let out before the adult men. If you have enough women around you and feel safe enough, refuse to leave the premises unless the men are let out as well. This creates further pressure on the police to let you out.
- If you are in an area without cab services, contact someone who can drive you home.
- Contact someone who can help you deal with the trauma inflicted on you due to the detention.

ON-GROUND MEDICAL AID

Medical aid

How to find a doctor at the protest when phones and internet are down.

01 IRFAN: Immediate Response First Aid Network

Look for WHITE T-SHIRTS that say "IRFAN". That is the medical team.

A volunteer network set up for days when both internet and phone networks are down.

At least one doctor with a couple of volunteers will be across the protest site at all times.

Exact locations are not published, for safety. Updates come through the organisers' Instagram.

If you can get online

Tag or DM on Instagram:

@yoursafespaceguy

@meghnads

@dr.medusssa

@aakid_x

@manan.ki.baat

@woemaniyah

02 Before you go

Read the [first-aid guide](#) for tear gas and injuries.

Write your blood group and any allergies on paper and keep it in your pocket.

LEGAL HELP

Legal aid

If you or someone with you is detained, tag or DM these people on Instagram with the person's name, the time and place, and the police station if you know it.

⚠ **Memorise one number.** Phones get confiscated — memory doesn't.

01 If you're detained: who to tag

These people and groups have offered help publicly. If you or someone with you is detained, tag or DM them on Instagram with the name, time, place and police station if known.

Lawyers

@radhikaganesh

@niiviravii

@whattalawyer._

@mehmoodpracha

@advocate.garima.01

@rishavranjan18

@aviksaha.india

@kapilsibal_official

NGO

@sachkhandfoundation

Citizens helping coordinate

@meghnads

@yoursafespaceguy

To amplify

Creators and leaders who can draw attention.

@political_dogra

@manan.ki.baat

@shubhangi_decodes

@divyaunnyfilms

@_yogendrayadav

@ajinkyashinde_cjp

@cockroachjantaparty

@aisa_official_

@kuna_kamra

@harshyadavind

DOCUMENTATION

Journalist support

An independent reporter is asking people across Delhi to document what happens in their own area, and people outside Delhi to save and send footage.

01 If you live near these areas (10 October)

Looking to connect with locals around:

Nizamuddin

Okhla

South Campus / Satya Niketan

Patala House Court

RML Hospital

Lady Hardinge Medical College

New Delhi Railway Station

Narela

Burari

Kapashera (Gurugram)

Because of movement restrictions across Delhi, only locals can be on the ground. Report from your own area, a place you know well.

A phone with a decent camera is enough.

A press card template will be shared. Print it and carry it.

Contributors will be paid an honorarium from a crowdfund.

Prior reporting experience helps but isn't required.

To take part, DM @kahaniistaan on Instagram.

02 If you're not in Delhi but want to help

- 1 Download videos of detentions, police violence or anything important, and save them before they're taken down.

- 2 Email a copy to kahaniistaan@gmail.com with harshh.mamnani@gmail.com in CC.
- 3 If the file is too large, upload it to Google Drive and email the link.
- 4 Put the date and location of the incident in the subject line, and the source link in the email body.

03 Stay safe while documenting

Keep the original file untouched and send copies. The original's time and place data is what makes it credible.

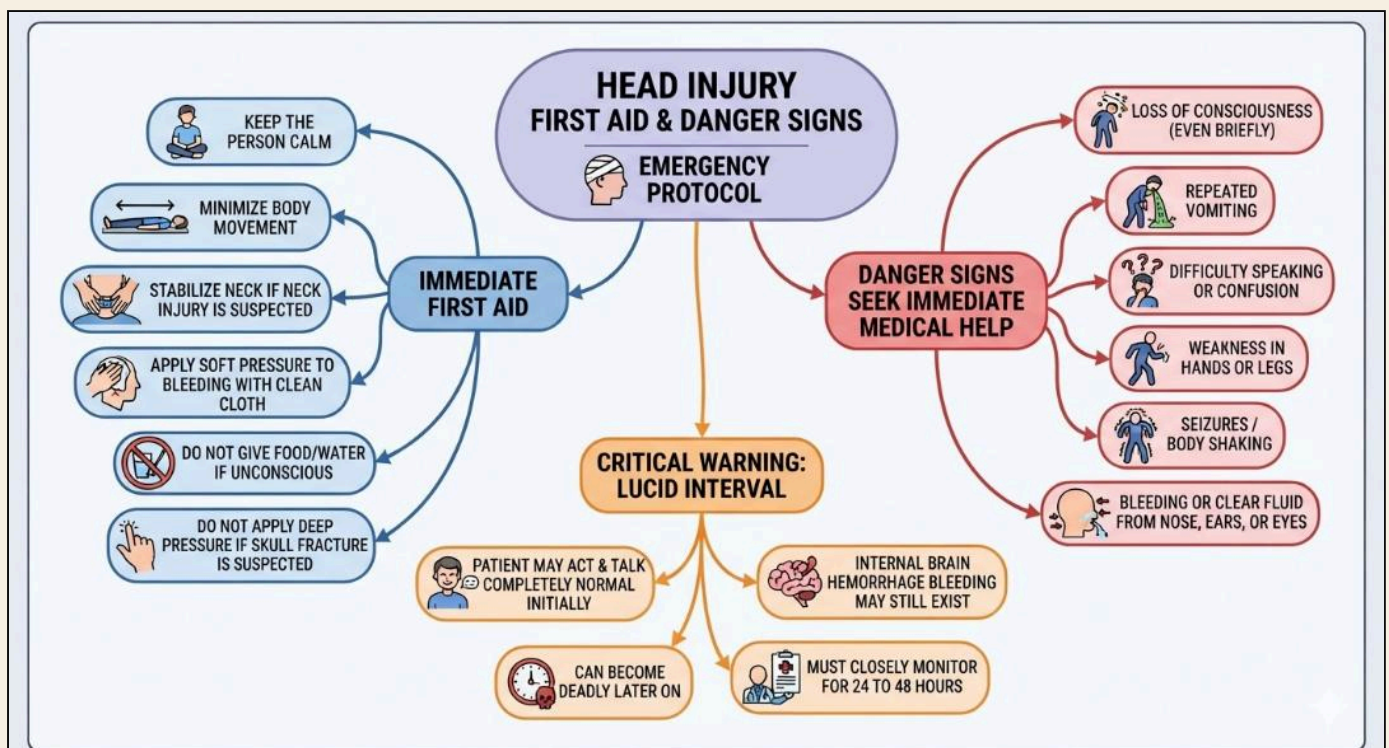
Avoid filming the faces of other protesters where you can; footage can identify them. See [Privacy and surveillance](#).

An email address reveals who sent it. If that's a risk for you, send from an address that isn't tied to your name.

Protest first aid

What to do for tear gas and injuries, and what to carry. Verified with a volunteer aid team.

⚠ **Serious injury needs a medic.** Heavy bleeding, breathing trouble, fracture: get to a medic or hospital.



Head injury — first aid & danger signs. If any danger sign appears, get to a hospital immediately.

01 Tear gas

Get out and seek high ground.

Move out of the cloud and away from the area as soon as you can.

Walk, don't run.

Running makes you breathe harder and pull more gas into your lungs.

Flush eyes with water, 10–15 min.

Use plain, cool water. There is no evidence baking soda or milk works better.

Don't touch the canisters.

Trying to throw them back can burn you or put you at greater risk.

 02 What to wear

- ✓ Mask or scarf over nose and chin.
- ✓ Shatter-resistant eye protection — swim goggles or sturdy sunglasses.
- ✓ Cover all skin; closed shoes you can run in.
- ✓ No contact lenses, no eyeliner/makeup — they trap chemicals.

 03 What to bring

- ✓ Water in a squirt-top bottle (drink + rinse eyes/skin).
- ✓ Drawstring or backpack (not cross-body).
- ✓ ID, emergency contact, and cash for bail/transport.
- ✓ Inhaler, EpiPen, or prescription meds if you need them.
- ✓ A change of clothes.

 04 Sprains & strains – PRICE

P**Protect**

Stop and protect the injured area from further harm.

R**Rest**

Avoid using the injured limb for 24–48 hours.

I**Ice**

Cold pack 15–20 min every 2–3 hours. Never ice directly on skin.

C**Compression**

Elastic bandage to reduce swelling — not too tight.

E**Elevation**

Keep the limb raised above heart level.

Get help now if: severe pain, a limb looks deformed, heavy bleeding, can't bear weight, or a suspected fracture.

**05****Medical helplines**

On-site medical teams, and how to find a doctor when phones are down, are in the Medical aid guide.

Open the Medical aid guide

STAY UNSEEN

Privacy & surveillance

Cameras and phones can identify who was at a protest. A few simple habits make you much harder to single out.

01 Your face

Cover your face.

A well-fitting mask (N95 or cloth) plus a cap and sunglasses breaks most face recognition.

Assume cameras are watching.

Police reportedly run facial recognition on protest footage. Treat every camera as one.

Avoid a unique look.

Distinctive clothing, bags, tattoos or hair make you easy to track across cameras.

02 Your phone

Your phone can place you.

Cell towers and IMSI-catchers log your presence. Use airplane mode when you don't need to be online.

Lock with a PIN.

Not face or fingerprint — those can be physically forced. See Your Rights.

Back up as you go.

Turn on auto-upload for photos/video, so evidence is already saved off your phone if it's taken.

Turn off auto-connect.

Disable Wi-Fi and Bluetooth auto-join so your phone stops broadcasting.

03 **If police take your phone**

You don't have to unlock it.

You're not obliged to share your passcode. A PIN is safer than face/fingerprint, which can be forced.

Stay calm; don't resist physically.

Note the officer's name, badge number, and the time. Say clearly that you do not consent to the search.

Ask for a seizure receipt.

Police are expected to document what they take. Ask for a seizure memo.

Deleting isn't the end.

If forced to delete, deleted media is often recoverable — and anything already backed up to the cloud is safe.

Call a lawyer.

As soon as you can. An unlawful seizure or forced deletion can be challenged.

04 **Photos & video**

Blur faces before posting.

Protect other protesters — blur faces and hide identifying details in any photo or video you share.

Strip metadata.

Photos carry location and time. Remove it before sharing publicly.

Don't expose others.

Don't post people's faces, check-ins, or plans without consent.

**In short**

Cover your face. Lock your phone with a PIN and back up as you go. You don't have to unlock it for police. Blur faces before you post. Protect each other.

OFFLINE TOOLKIT

Shutdown Kit

Set everything up *before* you go — none of it works once the network is down.

 **Golden rule:** download apps and map areas while you still have internet.

02 Message with no internet

Use Briar. It sends messages phone-to-phone over Bluetooth or Wi-Fi — no towers, no SIM, fully encrypted.



Briar

See how it works and set it up in 4 steps.



ANOTHER OPTION

bitchat



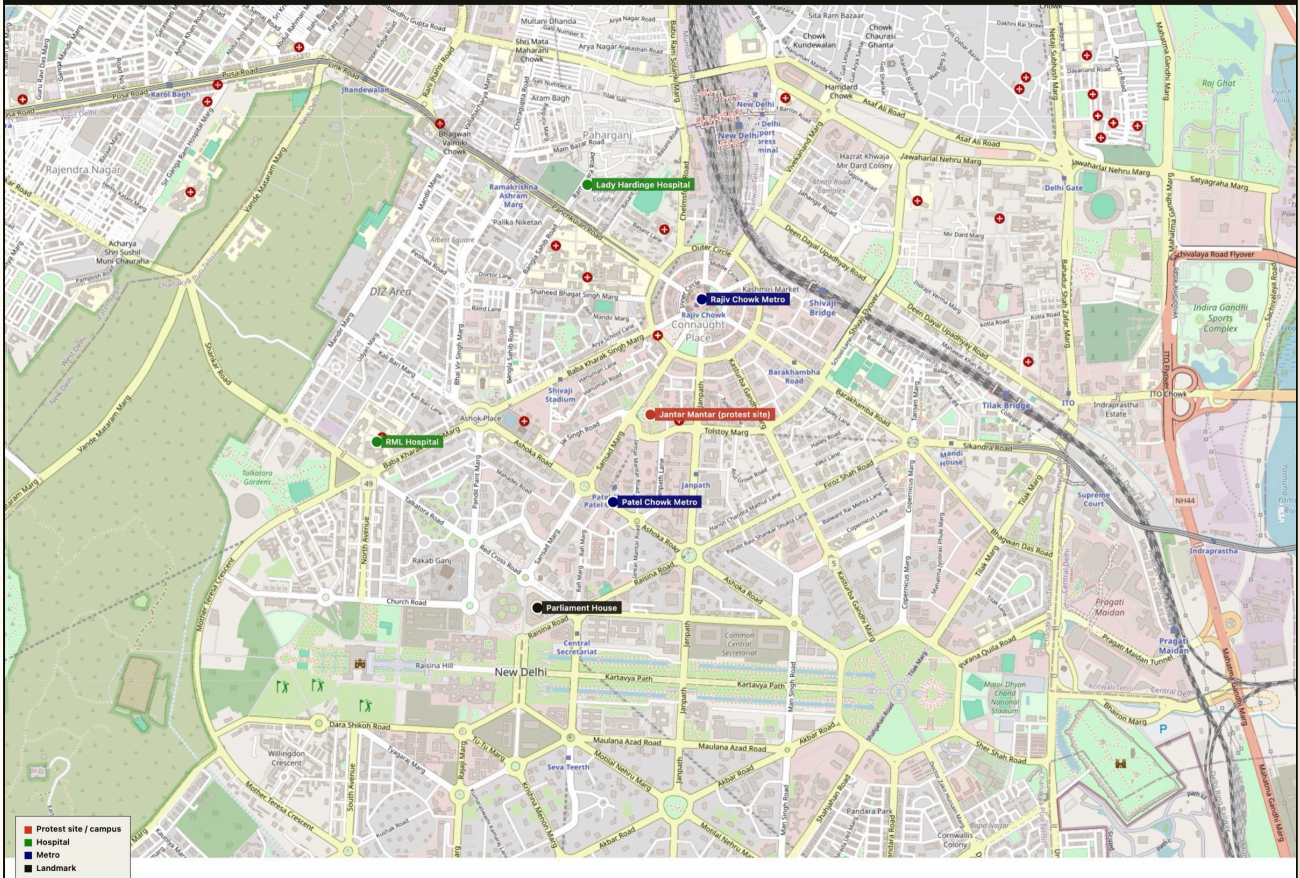
Open-source Bluetooth mesh, no accounts. Newer and less battle-tested than Briar, so prefer Briar when it matters.



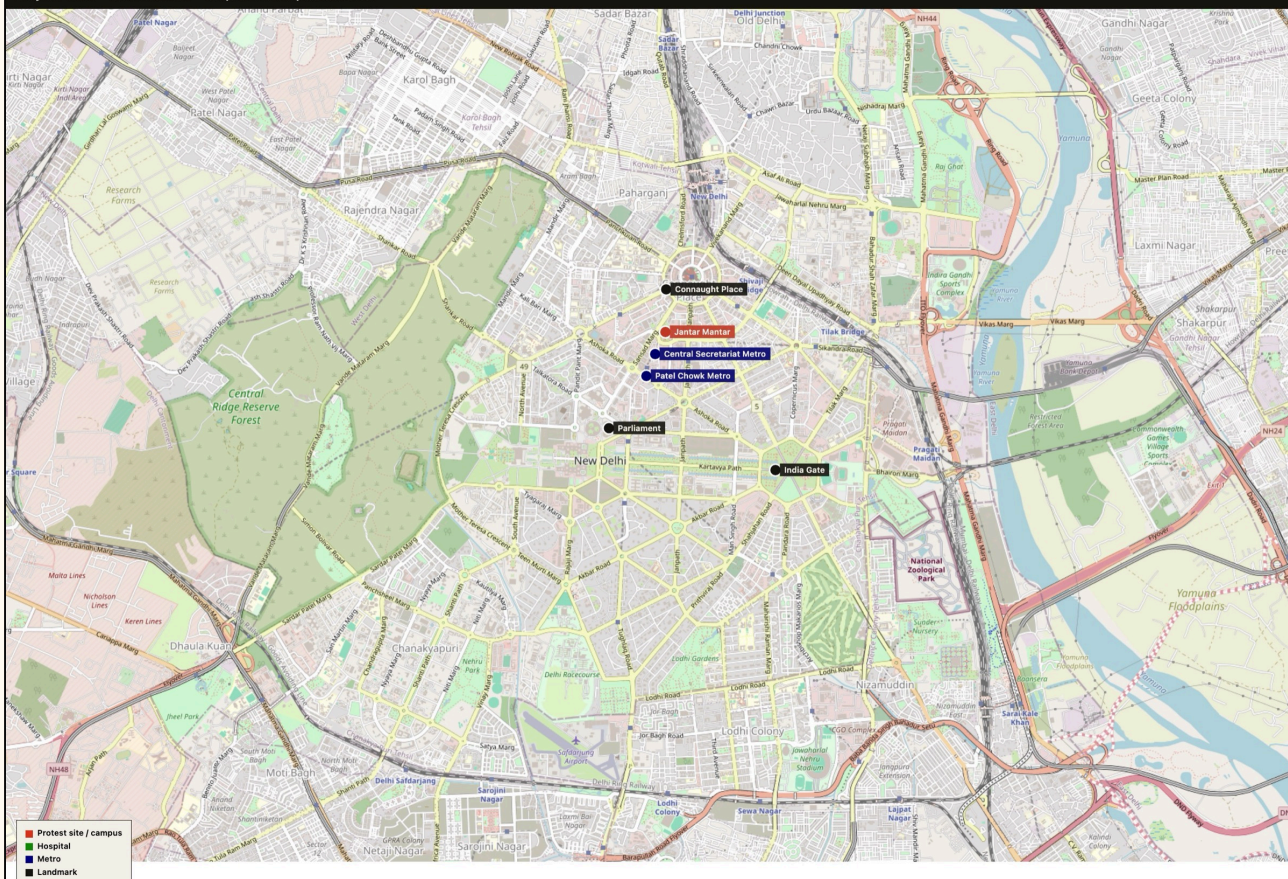
Why not Bridgefy? It's popular, but it has documented security weaknesses and is closed-source, so we don't recommend it for anything sensitive.

03 Offline maps

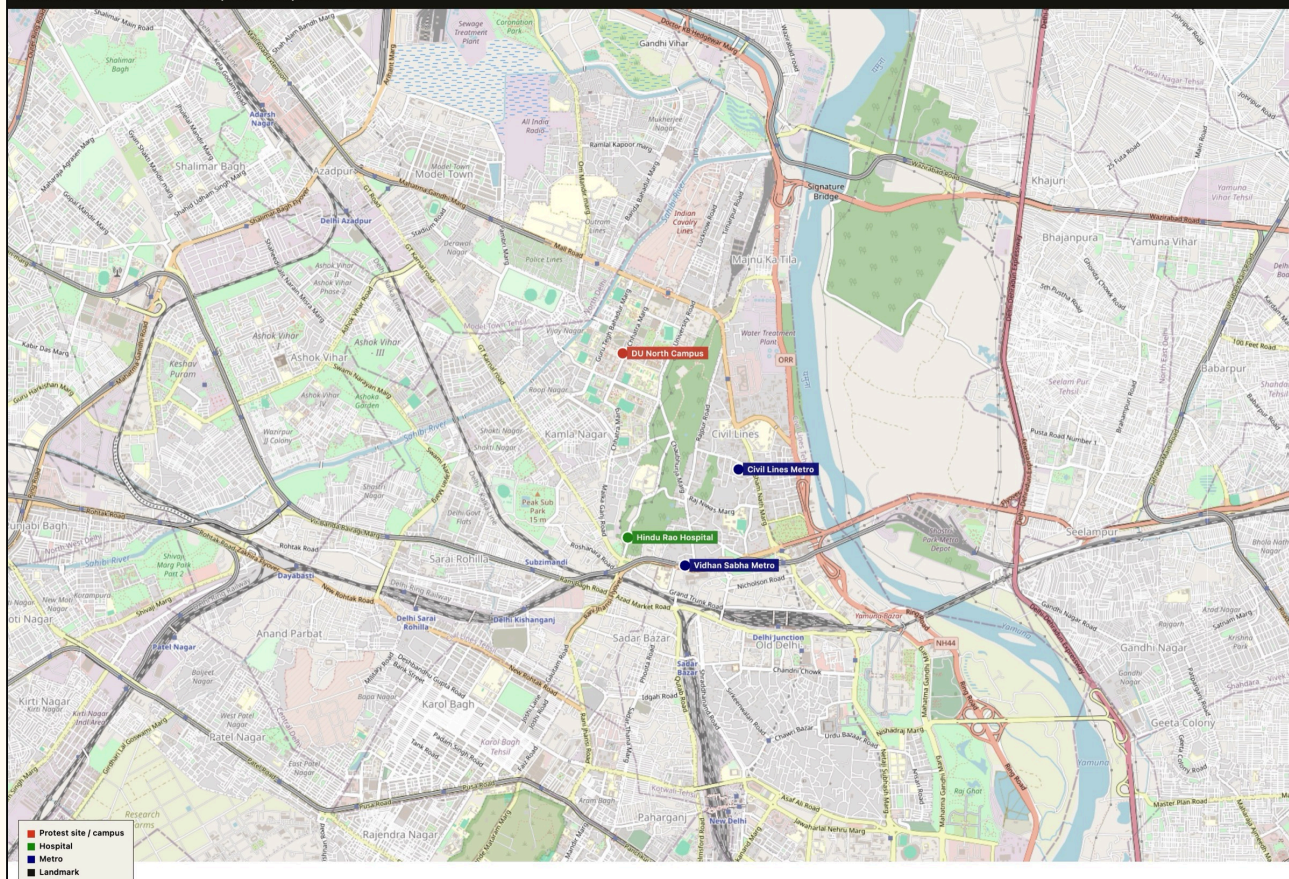
Save these now — they work with no signal. Tap a map to open it full size, then pinch to zoom or save it.



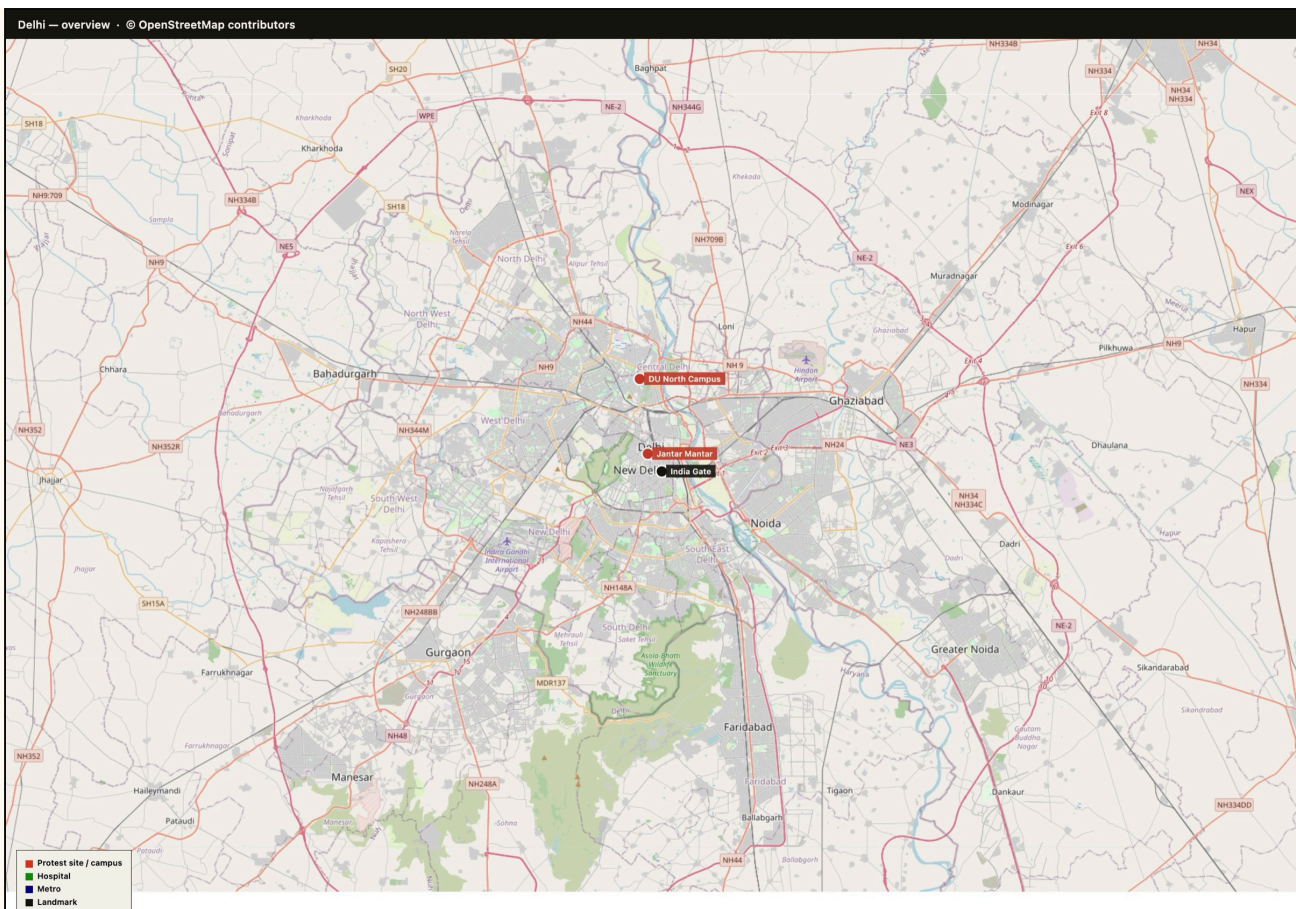
Jantar Mantar · Approaches, hospitals & metro



Lutyens' Delhi · Roads & metro



North Delhi · DU & Civil Lines



Delhi overview · City-wide

Also install a full offline map app and download the Delhi region:

Organic Maps ↗

OsmAnd ↗

Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors

+ 04 Detention alert plan

If you're detained and go quiet, the right people get told — with your location and a lawyer's number.

- 1** Pick two trusted contacts and a lawyer.
- 2** Agree a check-in time. Miss it → they act.
- 3** Write your "I've been detained" message now and save it, so you can send it to them in one tap.

4 Memorise a lawyer's number. Phones get taken.