

NRC case pending, EC skips SIR in Assam, orders ‘special revision’

No Documents Needed; Final Rollout Feb 10

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New Delhi: Election Commission on Monday ordered a ‘special revision’ (SR) of the electoral roll in Assam, due for assembly polls next year, with Jan 1, 2026, as the qualifying date. The SR will involve mandatory house-to-house (H2H) verification but differs from the special intensive revision (SIR) in that it will not seek documentation from any elector to prove their eligibility to vote.

The state poll machinery would ensure that every eligible person who fulfils the criteria under Article 326 of the Constitution — being a citizen of India, not less than 18 years, and an ordinary resident not disqualified under any law or of unsound mind — is included in the roll.

As regards ‘doubtful’ voters, or ‘D’ voters — suspected illegal immigrants from Bangladesh,



classified as such by EC in 1997, who remain on the rolls but are not allowed to vote — EC said their particulars will be carried forward to the draft electoral roll without any change. “Any modification, including removal or deletion, shall be made only upon receipt of any order from the competent foreigner tribunal or an appropriate court of law,” ordered the poll panel.

The pre-revision activities for the SR exercise in Assam shall begin on Tuesday, followed by actual revision from Nov 22 to Dec 20. An integrated draft electoral roll will be published on Dec

The legal criteria to determine citizenship, including cutoff date, is different for Assam vis-a-vis the rest of India, which is why the poll body has not ordered an SIR in the state, a senior EC functionary explained. Also, the final NRC data is yet to be published and holding an SIR would have led to a conflict between SIR and NRC data

27, followed by the filing of claims and objections from Dec 27 to Jan 22, 2026. These will be disposed of by Feb 2, and the final roll will be published on Feb 10.

Explaining the rationale behind not ordering a SIR in Assam, a senior EC functionary said the legal criteria to determine citizenship, including the cutoff date, is different for Assam vis-a-vis the rest of the country. Also, while a national register of citizens (NRC) was prepared for Assam in 2019, the final data is yet to be published, and Supreme Court is seized of the matter. Conducting a SIR at this juncture would

have led to a conflict between SIR and NRC data. In any case, over 10,000 citizenship challenges are still pending before foreigners tribunals, the functionary said.

On use of the nomenclature “special revision” and not the usual “annual or special summary revision”, the EC officer said that Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, terms any roll revision by EC with a different procedure as “special” revision. EC also avoided the term “summary” revision as it signifies a non-serious exercise not necessarily covering H2H verification. “This exercise will require the mandatory three H2H visits by BLOs to get the forms signed by each elector,” said the officer.

During the field verification, BLOs will be given a pre-filled register listing the existing electors. They will collect information on voters who are dead, registered at multiple places or permanently shifted, as well as roll corrections in Statement 1, on unenrolled eligible citizens in Statement 2, and on prospective electors in Statement 3.

Mamata rejects Centre’s ‘arbitrary’ appointment of Gorkha interlocutor

Roshan Gupta | TNN

Darjeeling: Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee Monday wrote to PM Narendra Modi “rejecting” the Centre’s “shocking, unilateral, arbitrary and wholly unconstitutional” decision to appoint former deputy national security adviser Pankaj Kumar Singh as an interlocutor for Gorkha issues in the Darjeeling Hills.

Banerjee said the decision was taken without any consultation or concurrence with the Bengal govt. In her letter, Banerjee stated that on Oct 18, she had urged the PM to “reconsider and revoke” the appointment. She noted that although the PM’s Office acknowledged her request and advised the Union home minister to examine the matter, the Centre operationalised the interlocutor’s office through a memo on Nov 10.

Banerjee argued that the Darjeeling region was an integral part of Bengal and governed by

the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration Act, 2011, a law passed by the assembly and given presidential assent. Citing Section 2(h) of the Act, she said the term “govt” unequivocally referred to govt of Bengal, leaving no jurisdiction for the Centre to appoint an interlocutor for the region.

The CM contended the Centre’s order amounted to an “ultra vires and mala fide exercise of power” and violated the constitutional balance between the Union and states. Matters relating to state governance, she pointed out, fell squarely under List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

Accusing the Centre of interfering in the state’s internal affairs, Banerjee warned that such actions undermined cooperative federalism and eroded the spirit of unity and mutual respect. She urged the PM to intervene once again and revoke what she termed was an “unconstitutional and arbitrary order”.



BLO’s ‘suicide’ triggers SIR protest by Raj govt teachers

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Jaipur: A day after a 36-year-old teacher and booth-level officer (BLO) in Jaipur allegedly died by suicide, govt school teachers across Rajasthan protested on Monday against overwhelming SIR duties, which they said were detracting them from their primary teaching responsibilities.

The teacher, Mukesh Jangid, allegedly took his life due to the stress of unrealistic targets and threats of suspension linked to special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Jangid’s family claimed they found a suicide note in his pocket, in which he cited grueling SIR workload and intense pressure by senior officials, including suspension threats, as the reasons for ending his life. His younger brother Gajanan alleged that police prevented family members from taking a photograph of the note.

MARCHING IN SOLIDARITY



Kerala govt employees stage a protest outside the chief electoral officer's office following the alleged stress-induced suicide of a booth-level officer involved in the SIR of electoral rolls, in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday

BLO killed himself after threats by CPM activists: Kerala Cong neta

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kannur: Kerala’s Kannur district Congress committee president Martin George on Monday alleged that booth-level officer (BLO) Aneesh George died by suicide on Sunday due to threats by CPM netas, and not work pressure.

During an interaction with reporters, Martin George released an audio clip of phone calls between the deceased and a booth-level agent (BLA) of Congress party, hinting at political pressure faced by him over the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Martin alleged CPM threatened Aneesh to avoid UDF’s representatives while visiting houses as part of SIR. “CPM pressured Aneesh to include CPM branch secretary and DYFI functionaries for field visit instead of UDF’s representatives,” said the DCC president.

According to him, all parties had suggested their representatives in SIR activities. “But,

Denying the charges, CPM said the attempts to divert the issue for political gains should be realised. It also said it would move SC against the SIR exercise

Aneesh was forced to exclude UDF BLAs during house visits. CPM’s BLA Rafeeq had threatened Aneesh demanding he exclude Congress’s BLA Vysakh during house visits. His suicide was not due to workload. He ended his life due to political pressure and threats from CPM netas and workers. A case should be registered against Rafeeq,” Martin said.

Meanwhile, CPM denied the charges, saying that the attempts to divert the issue for political gains should be realised.

CPM Kannur district secretary K K Ragesh alleged EC’s instruction to publish first phase of draft voters list on Dec 8, despite the busy work related to local body elections, had increased the workload of BLOs tenfold. The state govt will approach Supreme Court against this, he said. CPM will also legally challenge these anti-people SIR activities, he added. Ragesh also said that Aneesh’s family had clarified that he had no personal issues and he ended life only due to the pressure related to election work.

Body handed over to kin

The body of Aneesh was handed over to his relatives after postmortem Monday. Aneesh’s family reiterated he had been under severe work pressure related to the SIR. “He did not even get time to eat and sleep properly. He was under severe strain to complete the work assigned to him as part,” Aneesh’s brother-in-law Saiju told reporters. Saiju added that Aneesh was frequently contacted by senior officers for updates. “Seeing the severe workload, Aneesh’s father told him not to worry even if he loses his job,” he added.

Urban unemployment rate in Oct at 3-month high of 7%, shows PLFS

New Delhi: The overall unemployment rate for those in the 15 years and above age group held steady at 5.2% in Oct, but urban joblessness rate climbed to a three-month high of 7% during the month, the monthly periodic labour force survey (PLFS) showed on Monday. The survey also showed that there was a marginal decline in the rural unemployment rate from 4.6% in Sept to 4.4% in Oct.

The joblessness rate among females in the 15 years and above age group dipped marginally to 5.4% in Oct from 5.5% in Sept. The drop in unemployment rate among rural females, from 4.3% in Sept to 4% in Oct, led to the dip in female unemployment rate. Male joblessness has remained stable at 5.1% in Oct compared to the previous month. A marginal dip in the rural unemployment rate among males, from 4.7% in Sept to 4.6% in Oct, was offset by a slight rise in urban male unemployment from 6% to 6.1% during the same period.

The data showed the overall Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) reached a 6-month high of 55.4% in Oct. The LFPR has risen for four months in a row to 55.4% in Oct from 54.2% in June. The LFPR in rural areas has also increased from 56.1% in June to 57.8% in Oct, the monthly data showed.

LFPR among females aged 15 years and above reached 34.2% in Oct marking the highest since May, led by an increase in LFPR among females in rural areas, according to the data. The data showed female worker growth drove the increase in overall workforce. The overall worker population ratio (WPR) in Oct was 52.5%, and has been on a rising trend since June. The rise in the female workforce in rural areas led to the increase. TNN



Manja slits man's throat: A Maharashtra man got 13 stitches as a kite string cut his throat.

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CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED

Spooked by SIR, man returns home after 28 years to claim voter status

Sanjib Chakraborty | TNN

Kolkata: Bengal’s special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls just produced an act of desperation with a strangely redemptive ending.

Jagabandhu Mondal, missing for 28 years and long given up for dead by his family, returned to his native Bagdah village of North 24 Parganas Monday to reclaim his identity as a voter. His wife Supriya, left to fend for herself with two toddlers, recognised her husband’s “thickest face” the moment he landed at their door. His father Bijoy confirmed it was indeed his runaway son.

“The voice, too, was unmistakably his,” said Supriya, caught in a whirlwind of emotions surrounding the man who vanished on a winter morning in Feb 1997.

After efforts to trace him proved futile, the family had consulted an astrologer, who “confirmed” their worst fears.



Jagabandhu Mondal has returned to his village in Bengal for the SIR exercise, but his name has been apparently deleted from the rolls

Supriya even performed her husband’s shradha and reconciled to life as a single mother bringing up two kids.

Jagabandhu’s name was apparently deleted from the electoral rolls during one of the subsequent revisions. Now 55, after nearly three decades without any contact with Bagdah, he wants in. “I decided to return after I lost my job in Chhattisgarh. My name is

still on the voters’ list in Bankura,” Jagabandhu said.

The Bankura connection triggered suspicion that he remarried. Next to his name on that list is one “Sulekha Mondal”. Her husband’s name? Jagabandhu Mondal. The man in the muddle denied marrying a second time. “I travelled to Gujarat and then Mumbai before returning to Bankura for a while. I finally settled in Chhattisgarh,” he said.

Local booth committee member Samir Guha said Jagabandhu was back in Bagdah as he would need his original voter ID and land documents to remain on the voters’ list during SIR. “His name is not there on the post-SIR 2002 rolls, but his father’s name is.”

The designated BLO, meanwhile, said, “With his name deleted from the rolls and no official proof of his whereabouts for 28 years, verifying his claims and restoring his status may prove a challenge.”

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PUBLIC NOTICE

In continuation of earlier Public Notice dated 20.09.2025, 01.10.2025 and 20.10.2025 regarding Preparation of fresh Photo Electoral Rolls of all 46 Gurdwara Wards of GNCT of Delhi, all Sikh Citizens of Delhi are hereby informed that the last date for receipt of application for registration of Sikh Voters (Form - 2) i.e. 15.11.2025, has been extended upto 30.11.2025 in public interest. All Sikh Citizens of Delhi are hereby requested to avail the opportunity to get themselves enrolled in the fresh Photo Electoral Rolls of Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee.

(Manvinder Singh)
Director (Gurdwara Elections)

DIP/SHABDARTH/CLASSIFIED/0339/25-26

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उत्तराखण्ड राज्य के राजकीय मेडिकल कालेजों के अन्तर्गत असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर के रिक्त 439 पदों का अंतिम परीक्षा परिणाम

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सचिव