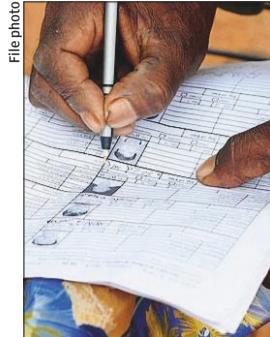


NRC case pending, EC skips SIR in Assam, orders 'special revision'

No Documents Needed; Final Rollout Feb 10

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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

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,

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 deterring 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 Gajanand alleged that police prevented family members from taking a photograph of the note.

In the SIR exercise underway in Rajasthan, teachers—who account for 85% of the state's 52,000 BLOs—have been assigned the responsibility of distributing, collecting and processing voter enumeration forms. Teachers say these duties have left them unable to complete their syllabus ahead of half-yearly exams, scheduled to begin on Nov 20, especially since textbooks were distributed three months after the start of the academic session on July 1.

In a memorandum to the chief electoral officer, Rajasthan Shikshak Sangh Ekkikrit, an association of teachers urged officials to treat BLOs with respect. "SIR work will be completed on time. But, please direct district collectors and sub-divisional magistrates to ensure their staff treat SIR personnel with respect and are supportive. Stop their authoritarian behaviour," it said. Teachers also highlighted "unrealistic targets" requiring BLOs to submit 100 completed forms daily.

On Monday, All Rajasthan State Employees Joint Federation (Unified) submitted a memorandum to CM Bhajan Lal Sharma demanding Jangid's family be granted compensation of Rs 50 lakh and his next of kin be given a govt job.



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 activists.

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 bu-

sy 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 Sajju told reporters. Sajju 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.

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 "thickset 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, mis-

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