

7 Govt & Politics



DELHI **CONFIDENTIAL**



BREAK FROM PRACTICE

SINCE ANNOUNCING the schedule for the Bihar Assembly elections on October 6, the Election Commission has issued over a dozen press releases, with at least one being issued each week-day. The press notes cover the routine measures taken by the commission during an election — from the implementation of the Model Code of Conduct to the randomisation of EVMs. This is a break from the usual practice, where the poll panel would issue a detailed release on the announcement of the polls and then only give updates on significant developments such as seizure of cash, liquor and drugs during the MCC period. It is learnt that the EC decided to boost communication during the Bihar elections, which are the first ones in Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's tenure, in order to spread awareness of all the steps leading up to polling day.

PLAYING SAFE

IT HAS been a tough few days for the Congress's leadership in Bihar, including state president Rajesh Ram, who have been facing the brunt of those denied tickets in the upcoming Assembly elections. According to sources, Rajesh Ram dodged calls and didn't reveal his location to those who called him Sunday. On Wednesday, three senior leaders — Krishna Allavaru, Rajesh Ram and Shakeel Ahmad Khan — were heckled at Patna airport, allegedly by angry supporters of senior Congress leader Ashok Gagan, who was denied the ticket from Bikram seat in Patna district. Congress leaders said Allavaru had to return to Delhi due to the rising heat.

Kerala joins PM SHRI: 'Need funds for students, teachers'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
OCTOBER 19

KERALA'S CPI(M)-LED government announced on Sunday that it has decided to join the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme, which aims to upgrade existing schools, to get its share of Central funds.

The state government had been reluctant to join PMSHRI, alleging that the scheme, which is part of the National Education Policy, was a tool for "safronisation" of education in the country and that it would bring the schools under the control of the Centre.

As a result of the state's reluctance to ink an MoU with the Union Ministry of Education, the central government had withheld the release of over ₹1,000 crore to Kerala's general education sector.

State Education Minister V Sivankutty said on Sunday, "There are arrears of ₹1,466 crore that we have to receive from the Centre. It is money that must be spent on our children. Many expenses, such as grants to stu-



Kerala
General
Education
Minister V
Sivankutty

dents and salaries to teachers, can be met only if we get this fund. Other departments, such as health and agriculture, have also accepted the Centre's assistance. The funds of the Union government belong to everyone in the country. Why should we stay away?"

He said the Centre was trying to cut aid on "silly grounds". "Even if we accept the Centre's aid, we will continue to uphold the state's traditions in the education sector. We have a policy, and there is no question of going back on that policy. We will adopt a practical approach," he said.

He recalled how the Kerala government had brought out alternative textbooks when the country's history was allegedly attempted to be "distorted" in the NCERT textbooks.

The Kerala government had said that it has already implemented many elements of the

EXPLAINED

How the
scheme has
fared so far

UNDER THE PM SHRI scheme, states have to bear 40% of the project expenditure, like other Central schemes. So far, 12,400 schools from primary to higher-secondary levels in 670 districts across the country have become part of the scheme. Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have so far not joined the scheme.

PM SHRI scheme. For instance, on the infrastructure front, Kerala schools, both government and government-aided ones, have made major progress over the last nine years. The state already has 40,000 smart classrooms with broadband connections in several schools.

The Kerala government's decision was welcomed by the state BJP, but the CPI, an important constituent of the ruling LDF, expressed reservations over

this "policy shift".

BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar said CPI(M) and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan have to tender an apology to the people of Kerala for having withheld the project for the last two years. "It is an agenda of CPI(M) to oppose good things and later become advocates of such matters. The approach of the government to end the political drama is welcome," he said.

CPI, the second leading partner in ruling LDF, which has strongly opposed signing the MoU with the Centre for PM SHRI, said there is no change in its stand. CPI state secretary Binoy Viswam said, "PM SHRI is part of the National Education Policy. It has to be examined several times to what extent that scheme is acceptable for us," he said.

The Kerala government said it has already implemented many elements of the PMSHRI scheme. For instance, on the infrastructure front, Kerala schools, both government and government-aided ones, have made major progress over the last nine years. The state already has 40,000 smart classrooms with broadband connections in several schools.

JDU flip-flops on its Amour candidate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA, OCTOBER 19

THE JD(U) on Sunday withdrew the candidature of Sabir Ali from the Amour Assembly seat in favour of Saba Zafar, who had already filed nomination papers on the party's ticket.

Ali, who had been expelled from the JD(U) in 2014, was named the candidate from the assembly seat on Saturday — a decision that took party cadres by surprise. Zafar, the runner-up of the last Assembly polls, and the winner of 2010, when he contested on a BJP ticket, had figured on the list of JD(U) candidates that came out last week.

Ali and Zafar addressed a press conference at the residence of senior JD(U) leader and state minister Leshi Singh, at whose residence the ex-MP was re-inducted a day ago.

"There should be no confusion. Ali saheb had returned to the party to boost its prospects in the Seemanchal region. I filed my nomination papers yesterday. I was never asked to return my poll symbol," said Zafar.

Ali said: "Admittedly, the news of my candidature had been disseminated from the official channels. But I do not take it to heart and am ready to campaign for JD(U) wherever I am told."

TO BEGIN WITH RALLY IN SAMASTIPUR ON OCTOBER 24

PM set to address a dozen events in Bihar after Diwali

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

WITH THE campaign for Bihar Assembly elections gaining momentum, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to address at least a dozen events, including both large and small public meetings, in the state between late October and early November, sources said.

To kick off on October 24, after the Diwali break, a majority of these events would precede the first phase of polling on November 6 while the rest were likely before the second and last phase on November 11.

The campaign will feature union ministers such as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah besides other prominent members of the cabinet, according to party insiders. Chief Ministers of BJP-ruled states, including Uttar Pradesh's Yogi Adityanath and Delhi's Rekha Gupta, in addition to other senior leaders will also sustain the party's outreach, they added.

The PM will begin his campaign from Karpurigram in Bihar's Samastipur on October 24 after paying obeisance to

the state's political stalwart and former CM Karpoori Thakur, BJP Bihar president Dilip Jaiswal said on Sunday.

The PM will begin the campaign with two large public rallies within hours of each other and address around seven events till November 7, he added.

"He will go to the home of Jannayak Bharat Ratna Karpoori Thakur ji and pay his respects before beginning the campaign. His first Sabha will be in Samastipur at 10 am followed by Begusarai at 1 pm on October 24," Jaiswal said.

"After this, the PM's second daura will be on October 30 with the first Sabha at Muzaffarpur and the second at Chhapra. After that, his Sabha is scheduled on

November 2, 3, 6 and 7," he said, adding that information about the PM's remaining public events will be given later.

"Bihar Chief Minister and the face of the NDA's campaign in the state, Nitish Kumar, will likely feature prominently in all the large meetings barring those which will see the PM interact with booth-level BJP workers," a party source said.

"The aim is to ensure that the NDA's campaign sustains throughout the period. It is likely to revolve around the development of Bihar under the alliance, the dark days of Lalu raj, and, when it comes to the BJP per se, at increasing the party's vote share compared to the 2020 Assembly elections," the source added.

AHEAD OF LOCAL POLLS

Maharashtra Opp to protest on Nov 1 over 'bogus voters' in rolls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 19

THE OPPOSITION parties in Maharashtra Sunday announced to hold a protest march in Mumbai on November 1, demanding rectification of voters' list ahead of the local body elections.

The protest was announced in a press conference by Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut, NCP leader Jayant Patil, MNS leader Bala Nandgaonkar, Congress senior spokesperson Sachin Sawant, CPI leader Prakash Reddy. The delegation of top Opposition leaders had met the state's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) and State Election Commissioner (SEC) last week, alleging problems in the voters' list.

The CEO, after the meeting, has already communicated to the Election Commission of India about the Opposition's demand to hold a Special Summary Revision (SSR) of the electoral rolls.

"After two days of meetings with Election Commission officials, we did not get satisfactory answers to the issues we raised. Therefore we have decided to hold a public march against the Election Commission on this issue in Mumbai on November 1," said Raut.

Earlier in the day, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray asked the State Election Commission (SEC) not to hold the upcoming local body elections without rectification in the voters' lists and asked his party workers to visit



MNS chief Raj Thackeray addresses party workers in Mumbai on Sunday. ANI

every house across the state to check the voters.

Thackeray slammed the ruling BJP for questioning the Opposition's demand to rectify mistakes in the voters' list.

He even showed videos of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from his tenure as the Gujarat chief minister, where he questioned the actions of the then Election Commission and warned it not to indulge in fraudulent methods.

"Am I saying anything different from what he (Modi) was saying then? The present ruling side, when it was in Opposition, was saying the same and changed its tune when it came to power," he said. Thackeray also showed the videos of ruling MLAs Vilas Bhumare and Sanjay Gaikwad (Shiv Sena), Satish Chavan (NCP) and Mandal Mhatre (BJP), where they claimed and alleged voter list manipulation.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

In continuation of earlier Public Notice dated 20.09.2025 and 01.10.2025 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. 20.10.2025, has been extended upto 15.11.2025 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.

Sd/-
(Manvinder Singh)
Director (Gurdwara Elections)

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0294/25-26

Maratha Vidya Prasarak Samaj
Central Office, Shivaji Nagar, Gangapur Road,
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- Incomplete applications and the applications received after the stipulated period will not be taken into consideration.
- Complete application form with all documents should reach the Central Office of the Samaj within 30 days from the date of publishing this advertisement.
- As per UGC norms the post is Tenure of five years or till the age of Superannuation whichever is earlier.
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- Services of selected candidates are transferable in the Society's Grant-in-Aid colleges.
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(Adv. Nitin Baburao Thakare)
Sarchitnis
Maratha Vidya Prasarak Samaj, Nashik

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Ph.D. ADMISSION 2026

BRIC-RGCBC invites application for admission to the Ph.D. program 2026 January session in various domains of Biotechnology from post-graduates having a minimum of 60% marks and 4-year Bachelor's degree having a minimum of 75% marks in Life/Environmental/Veterinary/ Pharmaceutical/Medical Sciences or allied subjects and as per UGC guideline. The candidate should have a valid JRF (UGC/CSIR/ICMR/DBT/DST-INSPIRE or any other nationally-competitive fellowship) offered by the Government of India and should be valid for a period of 5 years. Complete information, application format, eligibility and other details are available on the RGCBC website (www.rgcb.res.in). Applications along with prescribed fees must be submitted online through the link given in the web portal on or before **November 14, 2025**. Incomplete applications and application without processing fees will be rejected.

Sd/-
Director