

Bihar Assembly polls will be held before Nov 22: CEC

EC introduced identity cards for booth officials, phone deposits, and full webcasting

ANI

Patna

First india

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar on Sunday said that elections in Bihar will be held before November 22, when the term of the State Assembly ends.

Addressing a press conference in Patna, the CEC Gyanesh Kumar said, "Bihar has 243 assembly constituencies - 2 for STs and 38 for SCs. The term of the Bihar Legislative Assembly ends on November 22, 2025, and elections will be held before that time... The Election Commission trained booth-level officers for the first time... SIR was launched on June 24,



Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar addressing a press conference in Patna on Sunday.

2025, and completed by the deadline..."

Kumar congratulated voters on the successful completion of the SIR and urged the people of Bihar to participate actively in the upcoming

assembly elections.

Kumar also praised Bihar's booth-level officers for their outstanding work in cleaning the voter list. He said 90,217 officers set an example for the entire country.

KEY MEASURES

- 1200 voters at each polling booth
- Colour pics on EVMs
- Booth officials to carry id cards
- Voters to deposit phones
- Webcasting at polling booths
- Vote counting procedure clarified



17 new initiatives have been

successfully implemented in Bihar, some will be implemented in the conduct of elections, and some in counting

GYANESH KUMAR, CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER

● Bihar voter rolls purified, says CEC

continue to accept Aadhaar during the proposed Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the rest of the country, voters would also have to submit another document as proof of their identity.

"The list of those deleted includes dead electors, foreigners, and the permanently shifted. As for the (demand for the publication of) list of 3.66 lakh people, district collectors (DMs) have shared it with district presidents of recognised political parties. Anyone can raise objections till 10 days before the date of filing nomination by candidates," Kumar said when asked if the poll panel had identified "infiltrators or foreigners".

He also defended the SIR exercise in Bihar so close to the polls, saying the rules mandate the "cleansing" of the rolls before every election. "With the successful completion of SIR, the voters' list in Bihar has been purified. It is after a gap of 22 years that such a cleansing has taken place. The exercise will now be conducted across the country," Kumar said.

Asked if Aadhaar would be accepted as the 12th document in the proposed pan-India SIR exercise, Kumar, who was accompanied by ECs Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, said, "You all would have filled your enumeration forms. It required the Aadhaar card. The honourable Supreme

Court asked us to accept the Aadhaar card as the 12th document. But the Supreme Court's previous ruling and even the Aadhaar Act clearly say Aadhaar is not a proof of citizenship, nor of date of birth or address. It is surely proof of one's identity. That way, we will continue to accept it, but another document will be needed for 'patrata (eligibility to be a voter)'."

The court on September 8 directed the EC to accept Aadhaar as a 12th document in addition to the 11 it permitted for identification for people to be included in the final electoral roll during the SIR in Bihar. The court, however, made it clear that Aadhaar "is not proof of citizenship" and stated that the EC would be entitled to assess its authenticity. The following day, the poll panel issued instructions on the matter to Bihar's Chief Electoral Officer.

Kumar on Sunday began his speech in Bhojpuri and Maithili before switching to Hindi. The Commission also feted some Booth Level Officers (BLOs) at the event on the successful completion of the SIR. "Just as the Vaishali republic is a guide for the world, the SIR conducted in Bihar will show the path to SIR in the rest of the country," the CEC said, adding that the "7.42 crore voters (in the final electoral roll) had thanked" the poll panel.

Questioned about the decrease in sex ratio in the final electoral roll, Kumar said, "Our BLOs reached all the voters. If any woman voter was left out, she can still apply."

Asked why criminal elements were still entering the electoral fray, the CEC said the poll panel follows the "Constitutional provisions and related law enacted by Parliament" and from now, an officer from the revenue services would be deployed to monitor candidates' expenses. Kumar said that in the coming elections, voters would be allowed to keep their mobile phones just outside polling booths, and Booth Level Agents (BLAs) would be posted just 100 yards from the booths.

Among the new initiatives, the EC would begin webcasting from all booths, Kumar said. Earlier, 50-60% of the booths used to have the webcasting facility. "We have also fixed the limit of 1,200 voters in a polling booth. This will be applicable to the rest of the country now ... Postal ballots will be fully counted before the conclusion of two rounds of EVM votes," added the CEC.

Kumar refused to say when the election dates would be announced, saying the parties had proposed that the polls be held after the Chhath Puja later this month, and in one to three phases.

Indian express

CEC: Bihar voter rolls purified... foreigners among those deleted

SANTOSH SINGH

PATNA, OCTOBER 5

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar on Sunday said the list of deleted electors in Bihar includes foreigners, apart from those who have permanently shifted or passed away. Kumar did not specify the number of foreigners removed from the rolls, which, he said, had been “purified”.



‘Will keep accepting Aadhaar, but another document needed’

Addressing a press conference after a two-day visit to Bihar to review poll preparations, Kumar said while the Election Commission (EC) would

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In Bihar's election play, final act still uncertain

Bihar is immersed in politics even in the times of festivities. For Biharis, there's no better pastime than politics.

Over the last two decades, Bihar has coined a new adage — power follows where Nitish Kumar tilts. This is why, despite the BJP's growing tendency to edge out its alliance partners, it is content being the junior partner in the state. Even Lalu Prasad Yadav's RJD faced the same predicament when it was in an alliance with Nitish's JD(U).

Any party that's not with Nitish may apparently spew venom against him, but secretly fervently desires an alliance with him. This is the reason Lalu joined hands with Nitish in 2022 even after a bitter split in 2017. During the two Mahagathbandhan stints, BJP leaders publicly vowed never to ally with Nitish. However, today they are readying themselves to face the assembly elections with their "natural partner" for the third time in the state.

How has Nitish emerged as this talisman of electoral victory in Bihar?

In 2005, when he became the Bihar chief minister (CM), he dedicated all his energies to maintaining law and order, improving the quality of roads, electricity supply, transport and education. In 2006, he launched the School Chalo Abhiyan to push admissions and attendance, distributing bicycles to girl students. Thus began a silent revolution: In 2005, mere 1.8 lakh girls appeared for the class 10th exams in the state, while, this year, more than half of the 15.85 lakh students appearing for the 10th board exams were girls. Nitish was also the first to launch a programme to provide everyone with a house and water connection but couldn't succeed. Even today, society is bogged down by migration issues and the state is at the bottom of the list for many human and development indices.

Due to many reasons, Nitish's third and fourth term weren't very effective. In a democracy, you can't drive perpetually in the fourth gear.

This time around, he's being attacked from various quarters and his health is under the scanner. It would be interesting to see how many seats the JD(U) secures in the upcoming Assembly elections. The party is facing a slow but sure attrition of its cadre. It needs the RJD or the BJP to get past the victory line.

This is why, this time, the Nitish govern-

ment has transferred ₹10,000 each to the accounts of one crore women and announced a flurry of concessions and doles. Can it return to power riding the wave of goodies doled out since June this year?

Nitish's main rival, Tejashwi Yadav, performed brilliantly in the last elections. His Mahagathbandhan lost the elections by a mere 16,825 votes. He still enjoys the support of the Congress and the Left parties.

Despite his own diminished vote base, Rahul Gandhi tried to strengthen Tejashwi's position during his yatra. The Left's Dipankar Bhattacharya, Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav, Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut, DMK's MK Stalin, JMM's Hemant Soren and Yusuf Pathan from the Trinamool Congress joined his yatra to signal that the entire Opposition is behind him.

However, the excessive ambitions of his associates and family members is posing a huge challenge.

Right now, a slugfest is on in the Mahagathbandhan over seat-sharing. But, it is also true that this happens every time and there's no doubt all the alliance partners will fight the elections together.

The new voter list issued by the Election Commission saw 69 lakh voters removed and 21 lakh new ones added. For months, the Mahagathbandhan has been making it a political issue. Still, the NDA's strong caste calculations and government doles make the suspense over whom the voter will prefer even more acute.

Prashant Kishor and his Jan Suraj party are another factor. He shot to the limelight with election management services rendered not just to the BJP in the run-up to the 2014 elections, but also, later, to the Congress, YSR Congress, Trinamool Congress, Aam Admi Party, DMK, and even Nitish Kumar.

In the poll fray this time, he has organised *padyatras* (foot marches) in every district of the state. During the last one year, he has covered almost all the regions of the state meeting people and staying overnight in villages. Kishor has attacked Nitish, the BJP, and the RJD in equal measure. He's attracting large crowds and his coffers are surprisingly full. Will he be able to form the government or be the kingmaker in case of a hung assembly?

Large crowds and attractive slogans are necessary for victory, but they don't guarantee a win.

Let's also mention the BJP. The saffron party has the ablest organisation and strongest caste calculation. Chiraj Paswan, Jitan Ram Manjhi and Upendra Kushwaha, along with JD(U), make the NDA a formidable alliance. In the last elections, the BJP won more than twice the number of seats, compared to JD(U) and yet couldn't push its own CM candidate. Lack of a credible face is its biggest weakness in the state.

Sooner or later, the party will have to take a tough call on this issue. It will have to upset age-old relations with its allies and local leaders. Bihar is entering in an interesting phase. The assembly elections promise to go down to the wire. But the real game will commence once the dust on the electoral duel settles and the final tally is out.



It would be interesting to see how many seats the JD(U) secures in the polls. HT PHOTO

Shashi Shekhar is editor-in-chief, Hindustan. The views expressed are personal

पटना: 22 नवंबर से पहले होंगे चुनाव

17 चुनावी सुधार बिहार से पहली बार दिखेंगे: आयोग



raj patrika

पटना @ पत्रिका. आगामी बिहार विधानसभा चुनाव में 17 ऐसे सुधार पहली बार लागू किए जा रहे हैं, जो आगे जाकर पूरे देश में अपनाए

जाएंगे। इनमें कुछ मतदान प्रक्रिया से जुड़े हैं और कुछ मतगणना से। मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त ज्ञानेश कुमार ने पटना में दो दिवसीय दौर के समापन पर बताया कि सभी राजनीतिक दलों की राय ली गई है। चुनाव 22 नवंबर से पहले होंगे। नामांकन के 10 दिन पहले तक मतदाताओं के नाम जोड़े या हटाए जा सकते हैं।

एक केंद्र पर अधिकतम 1200 मतदाता

1. अधिकतम 1200 मतदाता:

अब देश के किसी मतदान केंद्र पर 1200 से ज्यादा मतदाता नहीं होंगे।

2. 100 फीसदी वेबकास्टिंग:

हर मतदान केंद्र पर 100 प्रतिशत वेबकास्टिंग की जाएगी। मतदान प्रतिशत, वोटिंग ट्रेंड और अन्य आंकड़े सटीकता-तेजी से आएंगे।

3. रंगीन फोटो:

अब ईवीएम पर चिपके बैलेट पेपर में उम्मीदवारों की रंगीन फोटो होगी। उम्मीदवारों के नाम मोटे-बड़े अक्षरों में छपेंगे।

4. पोस्टल बैलेट की गिनती:

पोस्टल बैलेट की गिनती, ईवीएम की अंतिम गिनती से 2 राउंड पहले पूरी की जाएगी।

5. दोगुना मेहनताना:

बीएलओ, बीएलओ पर्यवेक्षकों, मतदान/मतगणना कर्मचारियों, सीएपीएफ, निगरानी दलों और माइक्रो-ऑब्जर्वरों का पारिश्रमिक दोगुना कर दिया गया है। पहली बार ईआरओ और एईआरओ के लिए मानदेय की व्यवस्था। जलपान की व्यवस्था भी बढ़ाई।

6. जमा होंगे फोन:

मोबाइल फोन जमा कराने के लिए मतदान केन्द्रों के ठीक बाहर काउंटर स्थापित किए जाएंगे।

7. बीएलओ को स्मार्ट कार्ड:

सभी बीएलओ को अब आधुनिक स्मार्ट आईडी कार्ड दिए गए हैं।

पटना में मुख्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त: ली समीक्षा बैठक

अभी भी समय है, नामांकन से पहले दर्ज करें दावे-आपत्तियां: ज्ञानेश कुमार

एजेंसी/पटना। मुख्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त ज्ञानेश कुमार ने स्पष्ट किया है कि नामांकन की अंतिम तारीख से 10 दिन पहले तक पात्र मतदाता अपने नाम जोड़ने या गलत नाम हटवाने के लिए दावा या आपत्ति दर्ज कर सकते



हैं। पटना में दो दिवसीय समीक्षा बैठक के बाद संवाददाता सम्मेलन में उन्होंने सभी राजनीतिक दलों और आम मतदाताओं से अपील की है कि वे इस अवसर का उपयोग करें। मुख्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त कुमार ने कहा कि

अगर किसी योग्य मतदाता का नाम छूट गया है या किसी अपात्र व्यक्ति का नाम सूची में है तो संबंधित व्यक्ति या राजनीतिक दल निर्वाचन निबंधन पदाधिकारी (ईआरओ) के समक्ष दावा या आपत्ति दर्ज कर सकते हैं। उन्होंने

बताया कि, 'नामांकन प्रक्रिया शुरू होने से पहले तक सूची में संशोधन संभव है। एक बार नामांकन समाप्त हो जाने के बाद से लेकर चुनाव खत्म होने तक मतदाता सूची स्थिर (फ्रीज) कर दी जाती है।

मतदान कितने चरण में होगा, आयोग जल्द लेगा निर्णय

ज्ञानेश कुमार ने कहा कि आगामी बिहार विधानसभा चुनावों में मतदान एक चरण में हो या दो, इस पर चुनाव आयोग जल्द ही निर्णय लेगा। विभिन्न राजनीतिक दलों ने अपने-अपने सुझाव दिए हैं, जिन्हें ध्यान में रखते हुए चुनाव आयोग अंतिम फैसला लेगा। कुमार ने बताया कि वर्तमान बिहार विधानसभा का कार्यकाल 22 नवंबर को समाप्त हो रहा है, और उससे पहले ही चुनाव प्रक्रिया पूरी कर ली जाएगी। मुख्य निर्वाचन आयुक्त ने बताया कि वोटर कार्ड के वितरण की हर चरण की सघन समीक्षा की व्यवस्था की गई है और अगले 15 दिनों में फोटो वोटर आईडी कार्ड का वितरण सुनिश्चित किया जाएगा।