

Bihar's Bankipur falls

Prashant Kishor scores landmark bypoll win, ends BJP's 3-decade dominance

PATNA, AUG 03: Jan Suraj Party founder Prashant Kishor made a historic electoral debut on Monday, winning the bypoll for Bihar's prestigious Bankipur Assembly constituency, in a big blow to the BJP which had held the seat since 1995.

The defeat, coming days after the massive Gen Z protests across the country, was even more stinging because the seat was last held by BJP president Nitin Nabin, whose elevation necessitated the bypoll on August 30.

Kishor, who got 64,151 votes, defeated BJP's Neeraj Kumar by 19,324 votes. Kumar garnered 44,827 votes. Rekha Gupta of RJD was a distant third with 14,273 votes.

A little less than 3.8 lakh voters, including 2 lakh men and 1.79 lakh women, were eligible to vote in the polls.

The bypoll recorded a voter turnout of 34.30 per cent, down by more than seven per cent from the 41.45 per cent registered in the last assembly elections, held just nine months ago.

"The victory is a wake-up call for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who must install a new Chief Minister in place of Samrat Choudhary, a man with criminal antecedents," said Kishor, for whom it was a satisfying reversal of fortunes. In the Assembly elections, his party had failed to win any seats. Kishor had decided not to contest then. Geographi-

Reference The 49-year-old Jan Suraj founder had entered the fray, announcing that he saw the byelection as a "referendum" on the BJP-led government in the state.

Kishor, whose victory may help resurrect his fledgling outfit, also said, "On this occasion, besides thanking the common citizens, I would like to thank those who helped Jan Suraj despite not being in the party." BJP had hurriedly fielded Kumar after its candidate Abhishek "Bunty" pulled out at the eleventh hour, citing "family reasons".



The bypoll to the Assembly seat was necessitated by the resignation of BJP national president Nitin Nabin, whose late father, Navin Chandra Sinha, began the party's winning streak in 1995, when the seat was known as "Patna seat".

Nabin had vacated the Bankipur seat in April, upon election to the Rajya Sabha, six months after having won it for the fifth time on the trot.

State BJP president Sanjay reacted to the humiliating defeat, saying, "We bow down before the will of the people. We shall draw lessons from the debacle, unlike our opponents who tend to blame every electoral loss of theirs on EVMs and the Election Commission".

Commending Kishor, Chief Minister Chaudhary said, "In the grand festival of democracy, the people have chosen Jan Suraj in the Bankipur Assembly bypoll. I respect the people's verdict and extend my heartfelt congratulations to Prashant Kishor ji on his victory."

Kishor, who had first shot to fame for managing Modi's 2014 Lok Sabha campaign, has been a vocal critic of Chaudhary. "Bihar cannot be treated as a factory that produces cheap labour. I do not promise that my becoming the MLA will make Bankipur on par with Bengaluru. But,

when Gujarat, the home state of Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, is looking forward to having a bullet train, the people of Bihar certainly have a right to expect something better than passenger trains", said Kishor, amid screams of "Jai Bihar", the Jan Suraj Party's ubiquitous slogan.

Jan Suraj supporters swarmed the streets and gathered in massive numbers at AN College, where the votes were counted. Kishor's wife, Jahnavi Das, who usually stays away from politics, also chose to be by her husband's side in his moment of glory.

"This victory belongs to the people of Bihar", said Das, who hails from Assam.

In the BJP camp, the exuberance on display in the morning, when hundreds of party supporters turned up a city-based sweets shop to pick up 200 kg of 'laddoos' they had ordered expecting a certain victory, gave way to shock and despondency as vote counting proceeded and the lead enjoyed by Kishor grew almost progressively with every round. Geographi-

Reference Kishor's victory was hailed as "a lesson to the arrogant BJP", even by those outside his party, like Janshakti Janata Dal president Tej Pratap Yadav, the estranged

elder son of RJD supreme Lalu Prasad, and CPI(ML) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, whose party is an INDIA bloc partner.

Polling, held on July 30, followed days of intensive campaigning by Kishor as well as the BJP, with both sides repeatedly accusing each other of electoral malpractices and approaching the Election Commission over the issue.

"The verdict in Bankipur must be viewed in the backdrop of the wider dissatisfaction with the BJP, which recently got reflected in the students' protests. Of course, credit must also be given to Prashant Kishor, who displayed enormous energy and organisational skills," said veteran socialist leader Shivanand Tiwari, who had been one of the foremost participants in the 'JP movement' of the 1970s and, in a political career spanning many decades, has been with parties like RJD and JD(U).

RJD spokesman Chitaranjan Gagan, whose party has often charged Kishor with being the "B team of BJP", came out with a statement expressing delight over the verdict.

"For us, the defeat of the BJP in its stronghold is of greater importance than who won", said Gagan.

Congress retains MP's Datia seat, Ghanshyam defeats BJP's Ashutosh

DATIA , AUG 03: The Congress on Monday retained the Datia Assembly seat in Madhya Pradesh, with Ghanshyam Singh trouncing nearest rival Ashutosh Tiwari of the BJP by 6,016 votes in the bypoll held amid students' stir and differences in the saffron camp after senior leader Narottam Mishra was denied a ticket.

Congress leaders linked the victory to "awakening" among students and other sections of the country, calling it the "beginning of the end of the BJP rule".

At the end of all 15 rounds of counting, Singh secured 66,757 votes, while Tiwari polled 60,741 votes. Azad Samaj Party candidate Damodar Yadav finished third by bagging 22,527 votes, District Election Officer and Datia District Magistrate Swapnil Wankhade told PTI.

A total of 21 candidates were in the fray, including Ghanshyam Singh and Ashutosh Tiwari.

At one point, Singh's lead of 12,607 votes over Tiwari appeared unassailable, but the BJP nominee managed to close the gap to an extent in the last rounds.

The byelection was necessitated after a Delhi court in April sentenced sitting Congress MLA Rajendra Bharti to three years' imprisonment in a cheating case, leading to the termination of his Assembly membership.

The bypoll held on July 30 recorded a voter turnout of 71.44 per cent.

MP BJP president Hemant Khandelwal said the party would review the poll outcome and take action based on its findings.

"Discipline is paramount in the BJP. All our workers are equal. The party will take action based on the conclusions reached after the review," he said.

An elated Ghanshyam Singh declared that the verdict marks the beginning of the end of the BJP's rule.

His priority would be to promote communal harmony in Datia and end political



ical vendetta.

"I will work to end gambling and betting rackets in the constituency," the newly-elected Congress leader added.

In Bhopal, celebrations broke out at the state Congress headquarters with party workers distributing sweets and dancing to the beating of drums.

Congress veteran and former MP chief minister Kamal Nath attributed the electoral win to the hard work of party workers, saying the people of Datia refused to "bow to the pressure of power".

"This victory is not limited to a by-election. It's a sign of the change taking place in the country and Madhya Pradesh. Rahul Gandhi has awakened students in the country, and every section of society is agitating (against the BJP)," Nath said.

Alleging that every section of society is troubled by the BJP's misrule and people are yearning to throw out the "corrupt regime", Nath said this change has begun from Datia, the city of Maa Pitambara.

Former MP Digvijaya Singh thanked the electorate of Datia and hailed the committed cadres of Congress, who he said didn't abandon the party despite hardships and chose to endure them.

"The party will stand with every Congress worker in ups and downs. We will do whatever we can for their development," he said in a statement.

State Congress President Jitu Patwari described it as a victory for the people of Datia, a clarion call for the 2028 assembly elections, and the result of the collective efforts of Congress leaders.

Patwari told reporters in New Delhi that Datia voters have exposed the corruption, terror, and arrogance of the BJP-led government.

He said the people of Datia have laid the foundation for change and the BJP's departure, expressing confidence that Congress will return to power after the 2028 assembly elections.

Earlier, counting of votes began at 8 a.m. on Monday at the Polytechnic College amid tight security.

In the 2023 elections, Rajendra Bharti defeated BJP leader and former state Home Minister Narottam Mishra by over 7,700 votes from Datia.

The bypoll was held amid heartburn among Mishra's supporters after the party denied him a ticket and picked Ashutosh Tiwari. Mishra's supporters had clashed with police and blocked a national highway earlier in July.

Mishra later shared a stage

with Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, urging party workers to rally behind Tiwari, who replaced him.

At Tiwari's nomination rally in Datia, Mishra turned emotional as senior BJP leaders, including CM Yadav, sought to console him.

Ghanshyam Singh, who belongs to the erstwhile Datia royal family, had earlier represented Datia and Sevda seats. His father, Maharaj Krishna Singh Judeo, was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Bhind-Datia constituency on a Congress ticket in 1984.

Ghanshyam Singh had lost to Narottam Mishra in the 2008 assembly election. After an initial setback in 2013, he won the Sewda seat in 2018. He had lost the previous assembly election to BJP's Pradeep Agrawal in Sewda in Datia district.

The Congress's victory shows the party managed the delicate caste equations in the Datia constituency well, where the Brahmin, Kushwaha, Pal, and Thakur communities dominate various pockets. OBCs, SCs, and STs also hold sway, apart from Muslims.

With the victory, the BJP's strength in the 230-member assembly now stands at 164, while the Congress's numbers improved by one to 65.

Will show my scholarship letter if PM Modi shows his degree: CJP founder Dipke

CHHATRAPATI, AUG 03: Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Monday said he is ready to show his scholarship and loan sanction letters for his US education if Prime Minister Narendra Modi makes his degree public.

"I am ready to disclose my scholarship letter and education loan letters. Will PM Modi show his degree," Dipke told reporters in Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar.

Dipke's remarks were apparently in response to demands by activists and political opponents, who have been seeking official verification and public inspection of university registries to check authenticity of Modi's degrees.

Dipke said he financed his US education through a scholarship from Boston University and an education loan.

He is a post-graduate in public relations from the College of Communication at Boston University, and re-



turned to India in June this year. IndiaNews Portal

"I have received a scholarship from Boston University for my education. I also availed an education loan for my studies there. It has to be repaid. Everyone is free to investigate," Dipke said.

"I am ready to show my letters of scholarship and ed-

ucation loan along with my degree. PM Modi should show his degree and make it public. If he does so, I am ready to make my documents public," Dipke said.

"Whenever people raise their voice against this government, they start sending the ED and CBI. Let them come to my home and inves-

tigate. I am ready to show my letters, but if the PM is sending ED, he should also send his degree and make it public," he said. "My degree is authentic and I expect that Modi's degree will also be authentic," he added.

To a query on whether CJP will become a political party, Dipke said, "I feel that media is disappointed with the existing political parties. We don't have any such intention (of forming a political party) as of now and want to keep it as a public movement for now."

"What will we do by becoming a political party when votes are stolen? People are losing faith in politics because they vote for someone in the morning and someone else's government is formed in the evening," he said.

"MLAs and MPs jump from one party to another. When parties are broken by sending ED and CBI, what is the use of becoming a political party," Dipke said.

3,000 cadre officers move Supreme Court against CAPF Act, hearing likely on August 4

NEW DELHI, AUG 03: As many as 3,000 serving Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) Group A cadre officers have moved the Supreme Court challenging the Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026, which was passed by Parliament in April.

The petitioners include gallantry award winners and women officers, and there is a likelihood that the petition will come up for hearing on Tuesday.

The provisions of the Act make it difficult for CAPF cadre officers to be promoted to leadership and other higher positions. Of the 3,000 petitioners, around 1,500 are from the CRPF, and most have approached the Supreme Court individually.

A petitioner told The Tribune that the provisions of the legislation effectively negate the Supreme Court's

May 2025 order, which held that all Higher Administrative Grade (HAG) posts in all CAPFs should be filled from among eligible executive cadre officers of the respective forces, rather than exclusively through deputation.

On May 23, 2025, the Supreme Court further ruled that Group A executive cadre officers of the CAPFs constitute organised Group A services for all purposes. It also directed the Centre to progressively reduce IPS deputation in the CAPFs up to the level of Inspectors General (IGs) over the next two years.

Additionally, the apex court directed the Centre to conduct a time-bound cadre review within six months. The petitions filed by the CAPF officers seek to have Sections 3 and 4 of the CAPF Act declared ultra vires (beyond the powers of) the Constitution of India. TrendingVideos

Section 3 deals with the

regulation of recruitment and conditions of service. It begins with a non obstante clause overriding any judgment, decree or order of any court and specifies the percentage of posts reserved for IPS officers on deputation. Section 4 empowers the Union government to amend the First and Second Schedules of the Act through a notification whenever it considers such action necessary or expedient in the public interest.

The petitioners have also sought directions for the implementation of the Supreme Court's judgment dated May 23, 2025.

The law, which was notified on April 9 this year, effectively overrode the Supreme Court's verdict by providing that in all CAPFs, 50 per cent of the posts in the rank of Inspector General (IG), at least 67 per cent of the posts in the rank of Additional Director General

(ADG), and all posts in the ranks of Special Director General (SDG) and Director General (DG) must be filled by IPS officers on deputation.

The controversial Act also omits the provision reserving 50 per cent of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) posts for Group A CAPF officers, an issue over which retired paramilitary officers have been protesting for the past several months.

In fact, on the day the Bill was passed by Parliament in April, former paramilitary officers staged a dharna at Jantar Mantar in the national capital to protest against the legislation.

Incidentally, before enacting the law, the Union Home Ministry had challenged the Supreme Court's May 2025 judgment. However, on October 28, 2025, the apex court dismissed the review petition, thereby making its ruling final.

serve as the deputy speaker.

The expansion marks the comeback of former Scheduled Tribes welfare minister B Nagendra. A former BJP leader, who had moved to the Congress in 2018, Nagendra had resigned from the cabinet in 2024 over charges linked to the Valmiki Development Corporation scam. Besides, two minority faces are also part of the expansion—B Z Za-

meer Ahmed Khan and Rizwan Arshad.

Children of three former chief ministers are now part of Shivakumar's Cabinet. They are Yathindra Siddaramaiah (already a minister), Kumar Bangarappa (son of S Bangarappa) and Ajay Singh (son of N Dharam Singh).

Incidentally, six of these 20 new ministers were part of the previous govern-

ment led by Siddaramaiah.

Gayathri Shanthegowda, whom the Supreme Court's recent verdict declared elected from the Chikkamagaluru Local Authorities' Constituency, will be the lone woman member in the Cabinet. Her election followed the court setting aside BJP's MK Pranesh's election to the legislative council in December 2021.

20 MLAs inducted into Karnataka cabinet; GS Patil to be Speaker

NEW DELHI, AUG 03: In a deft move, Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday inducted 20 ministers in the first expansion of his cabinet since taking charge of the top post. Many of the faces are new with a mix of caste and regional arithmetics essential to the southern state. The expansion strengthens the Shivakumar cabinet that took charge of the state

back in June. The influential Vokkaliga leader had replaced Siddaramaiah in a leadership change that had long been the subject of a power tussle in Karnataka.

With the latest round of expansion, the cabinet strength rises from 14 to 34.

The new leaders include P M Narendraswamy (Malavalli), Shivaraj Tangadagi (Kanakagiri), Rudrappa Lamani

(Haveri), K S Basavanthappa (Mayakonda), B Nagendra (Ballari rural), T Raghunoorthy (Challakere), B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan (Chamarajpet), Rizwan Arshad (Shivajinagar), Santosh Lad (Kalaghatagi), Madhu Bangarappa (Soraba), among others.

G S Patil has been chosen as the new speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, while A S Ponnanna will