

Rahul Gandhi portrayed Savarkar as 'extreme hater of Muslims', latter's grandnephew tells court

NEW DELHI, SEP 02: VD Savarkar never hated Muslims and his writings showed ways for their progress, but Congress MP Rahul Gandhi portrayed him as an "extreme hater of Muslims," the Hindutva ideologue's grandnephew Satyaki Savarkar has claimed in a Pune court.

During the cross-examination in the special court on Tuesday, Gandhi's lawyer Milind Pawar also submitted Satyaki's grandfather Gopal Godse's 2004 video interview and its transcripts, in which he purportedly acknowledged that his brother Nathuram Godse was an RSS member.

Gopal Godse, the younger brother of Nathuram, was



also a co-conspirator in the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

During cross-examination in a defamation case against Rahul Gandhi over his alleged statements in London in 2023, Pawar asked Satyaki

had written in a book that he and five to six friends had assaulted a Muslim youth and derived pleasure from the act'. "By these words, Savarkar was portrayed as an extreme hater of Muslims and as a mob lyncher. Savarkar never hated Muslims. Rather, in his writings, he showed the ways and means for their progress," he claimed. Satyaki Savarkar has alleged that Rahul Gandhi falsely claimed that VD Savarkar had written in a book about how he and his friends had assaulted a Muslim youth and derived pleasure from the act.

The complainant has maintained that no such incident appears in the Hindutva ideologue's writings.

4 Indian-origin people from US's Texas missing after Nepal floods

HOUSTAN FEB 02: A non-profit organisation said four Indian-origin people from Texas have been missing since the catastrophic Nepal-Tibet flash floods and launched an emergency tracking desk, releasing USD 100,000 in relief funds.

Deepak Ahuja (60) and Madhu Ahuja (57), business owners from north Texas, were returning from a Mount Kailash pilgrimage when contact was lost near the Gyirong Port on the China-Nepal border following the floods that severed local communications networks.

"We all immediately started calling our parents. No answer," said Ashna Ahuja, daughter of the missing couple. "We just love them a lot and want them to come home."

A second couple from Murphy, Texas -- Archana Suresh and Raghu Rajan -- also remains unaccounted for in the Rasuwagadhi-Timure sector.

US consular officials estimate approximately 85 to 90 American citizens were



initially missing across the impacted river basin.

Texas-headquartered Sewa International USA announced on Tuesday that it has raised over USD 55,000 within 24 hours for its "Nepal Flash Flood Relief" drive and established a missing persons' portal (sewauusa.org/NepalRescue).

"Flash floods have devastated parts of Nepal, killing hundreds and sweeping away many devotees gathered for the Kailash Yatra," said Srikanth Gundavarapu, president of Sewa International USA. "It is heart-wrenching to see the suffering and grief of people."

The organisation confirmed that several of its own US-based volunteers who were near the border during the disaster are among those missing.

"Sewa's immediate priority is to help families who have lost their homes, are stranded, and face hunger, cold, and health emergencies," said Vinayak Astekar, Sewa's Associate Director for Disaster Response.

Ground relief teams have dispatched shelter materials, 300 heavy-duty tarpaulins, emergency food rations, and medical supplies, including 5,000 packets of oral rehydration solution, to affected communities in Rasuwa, Nuwakot, and Dhading districts.

Heavy rain lashes Kolkata, Bengal districts; IMD forecasts more rain over next 2 days

KOLKATA, DEC 02: Heavy rain lashed Kolkata and several other places of West Bengal on Wednesday, affecting normal life, even as the IMD forecast more downpour over the next two days.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the intensity of rain over south Bengal will decrease from Thursday as a low-pressure area over Gangetic West Bengal was moving towards northeastern Madhya Pradesh.

Heavy precipitation over several districts of West Bengal, including Kolkata, inundated low-lying areas in cities and towns, affecting normal life.



Rahul Gandhi slams Centre over bus gang rape

NEW DELHI, SEP 02: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday questioned the deletion of 2.07 crore voters from Maharashtra's draft electoral rolls, asking the Election Commission to explain which of its voter lists was correct, as he renewed his charge of "vote theft" and accused the poll body of altering its tactics to favour the BJP.

Gandhi pointed to sharp variations in Maharashtra's electorate, from 9.29 crore voters during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections to 9.7 crore in the Assembly polls later that year, and now 7.78 crore following the 2026 SIR.

"Now in Maharashtra, 2.07 crore voters have been removed from the draft list — that's every fifth voter," Gandhi said, before asking: "Which list was correct?"

The Congress leader alleged that the changes in electoral rolls across successive elections were part of a pattern and referred to the Election Commission as the "Vote Theft Commission".

"The BJP and the 'Vote Theft Commission' keep changing their tactics, and they will continue to do so — the goal remains just one: BJP's victory at any cost, and the end of India's democracy," he alleged.

Some thoroughfares and low-lying localities in the metropolis were waterlogged owing to the heavy downpour, with the IMD recording 127 mm of rainfall at Alipore in Kolkata in 24 hours till 8.30 am of Wednesday.

Sriniketan in Birbhum district recorded the state's maximum rainfall during the 24-hour period at 263 mm, leading to water-logging in various places, including in adjoining Santiniketan, which houses the Visva-Bharati.

The IMD said very heavy rain is likely over Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar districts in north Bengal over the next two days, and over Hooghly, Purba and Paschim Bardhaman and Birbhum districts till Thursday.

It said heavy rain is likely over Darjeeling and Cooch Behar districts in north Bengal over the next two days, and over Kolkata, North and South 24 Parganas, Howrah, Murshidabad and Nadia till Thursday.

Though Kolkata recorded very heavy downpour during the 24-hour period till Wednesday morning, adjoining Salt Lake area and Dum Dum airport received 27 mm and 19 mm respectively, according to the IMD.

The other places that recorded significantly high precipitation during the period are Asansol (110 mm), Tilpara Barrage (80 mm), Bankura (60 mm), Kalimpong (70 mm) and Darjeeling (37 mm), it said.

Sibal's explosive charge: 'SIR aimed at helping BJP win polls'; calls for SC intervention

NEW DELHI, SEP 02: Independent Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Wednesday alleged that the SIR being carried out by the Election Commission is an exercise aimed at helping the BJP win elections and urged the Supreme Court to stop the "bulk deletions" taking place under it.

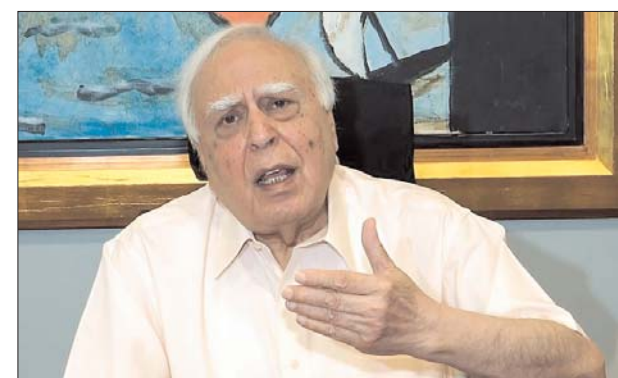
The former Union minister also alleged that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls that is ongoing in various states is aimed at helping the BJP win elections.

Sibal's remarks came over a report in The Indian Express which claimed that in Godda district of Jharkhand, BJP agents are seeking to delete voters, mostly from the minority community, with Booth Level Officers, who are employees of the state government headed by the JMM-Congress, raising red flags over the issue.

In a post on X, Sibal said, "Politics of exclusion. BJP agents: Target Muslims, seek bulk deletions. Supreme Court needs to stop this!"

"SIR is an exercise: To manipulate the voters list. Help BJP win elections!" the MP said. Later, addressing a press conference, Sibal said that in Jharkhand, there were bulk forms called form 7 being filed by BJP workers.

"You can file bulk forms - in the sense you can get 45, take 45 of them, or 100 of them, or even 400 of them. You can file the forms and you can say that this name should be deleted. You don't



have to give any reason for it, and if it is found to be false, it doesn't matter," Sibal said.

In this particular report in a national newspaper when investigation was done, the names that were targeted belonged to the Muslim community, he said. Newspaper-Advertisement Placement

And those people have been interviewed and they have said [they've] been living there for years, their families have been living there for years. So if this is the way things are going to be done, what's the point of having an election?

It has been found that those Muslims whose names were sought to be deleted by bulk forms by BJP workers were actually living there for years, many of them ever since Independence, he said.

"And therefore this is a very serious issue, and if courts don't take care of this issue, if courts just believe that the SIR exercise is by a neutral Election Commission of India, then I think we are in deep trouble - this democracy will be in deep trouble," Sibal said.

"For example in Delhi it-

"Ultimately, who is a BLO? He is a school teacher, a government school teacher. He will do what he is told. I mean not everybody, but if people at high places can be pressured, a school teacher can easily be pressured. So where do we go from here? I wanted to bring this to the notice of this country that it's time that the nation wakes up," he said.

His remarks come a day after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi slammed the Election Commission as "BJP Kursi Bachao Aayog" and "Vote Chori Aayog".

Kharge and Gandhi said the ruling party's conspiracy to hollow out India's democracy through "vote chori" has come out in the open for which people will punish them.

He said people have understood the BJP's conspiracy, and they are now uniting against the theft of votes and will punish those behind it.

With more than 2.06 crore electors excluded from Maharashtra's draft electoral rolls after the SIR exercise, Rahul Gandhi alleged that the BJP and the "Vote Chori Aayog" keep changing their tactics and will continue to do so as their goal is to ensure the BJP's victory at any cost.

Gandhi said that for a government built on "vote chori", people are not important and that is why the BJP neither listens to them nor obeys their command.

CBI to probe Sushant Singh Rajput's ex-manager Disha Salian's death case

MUMBAI, SEP 02: The Bombay High Court on Wednesday ordered a CBI probe into the death of former celebrity manager Disha Salian after her father raised suspicion about the circumstances in which she passed away in 2020.

A bench of Justices Sarang Kotwal and Ranjitsinha Raja Bhonsale said the CBI would register an FIR and record the statement of the deceased's father, Satish Salian, but no person would be treated as an accused until and unless there is sufficient material gathered against them during the probe.

Disha Salian had also worked as manager of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, who allegedly died by suicide on June 14, 2020. A CBI probe had also been ordered in that case.

Disha Salian died on June 8, 2020, after falling off the 14th floor of a residential building in Mumbai's Malad area. The city police then registered an Accidental Death Report (ADR).



The high court on Wednesday ordered the Mumbai police to hand over all Disha Salian death case papers to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) forthwith. "In case the investigation reveals that no case is made out, then the CBI shall file the appropriate summary report before the court concerned," the bench said. Geographic Reference Satish Salian would be at liberty to challenge the report, the court said. bench said the CBI shall hand over the case to a senior officer for probe.

After conducting an inquiry, the police claimed that

Disha Salian's death was a case of suicide. Her father, however, filed a petition in the high court last year alleging that his daughter was gang-raped and murdered.

Satish Salian's advocate Nilesch Ojha had raised doubts about the police probe into the case.

Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards 2024 announced; four achievers to be honoured

NEW DELHI, SEP 02, : The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on Wednesday announced four awardees for the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards (TNNA) 2024, with President Droupadi Murmu set to confer the honours at Rashtrapati Bhavan alongside the National Sports Awards 2025.

The awardees include mountaineers Baljeet Kaur and Skalzang Rigzin in the Land Adventure category, Rimo Saha in Water Adventure and Shiv Prasad Chamoli in the Lifetime Achievement category, according to a statement from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

The date of the award ceremony will be announced separately.

The Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award carries a bronze statuette, a certificate, a blazer with a silken tie (or saree), and an award money of Rs 15 lakh. The award enjoys a status equivalent to the Arjuna Awards and is presented by the Government of India along with the National Sports Awards. South Asians & Diaspora

The Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards recognise outstanding achievements in adventure activities and aim to encourage qualities such as courage, endurance, discipline,

risk-taking and teamwork.

According to the Ministry, the awards also seek to promote the ability to take quick and effective decisions while dealing with challenging situations and encourage wider participation in adventure activities across the country.

The awardees were selected on the recommendations of the National Selection Committee, which evaluated the nominations and conducted due scrutiny before recommending the recipients for the national honour.

Baljeet Kaur and Skalzang Rigzin have been recognised for their achievements in land-based adventure activities,

while Rimo Saha has been selected for the Water Adventure category. Shiv Prasad Chamoli will receive the Lifetime Achievement award for his contribution to the field.

The Ministry said the awards reflect the government's efforts to promote adventure activities and nurture a culture of courage, resilience and excellence among the country's youth.

The Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards are named after Tenzing Norgay, who, along with Sir Edmund Hillary, became the first confirmed climbers to reach the summit of Mount Everest in 1953.