

BJP announces 4 'Nasha Mukt Punjab Yatras'; Nitin Nabin to flag off first on Sep 18

CHANDIGARH, SEP 11: The BJP will take out four statewide 'Nasha Mukt Punjab Yatras' in Punjab to mobilise people across all 117 Assembly constituencies and turn the fight against drugs into a mass public movement, party state unit chief Kewal Singh Dhillon announced on Friday.

Dhillon said that BJP chief Nitin Nabin will flag off the first yatra on September 18 from Ekta Sthal, Madhopur, Sujampur in Pathankot.

Dhillon further informed that the yatras, under the tagline "Bhajpa Da Naara, Nasha Mukauna Saara", will focus on three major challenges confronting Punjab today: "The growing drugs menace, deteriorating law and order, and corruption at every level of governance, from the tehsil and police station to the Chief Minister's Office."



Notably, the BJP plans to contest all 117 assembly seats in the Punjab assembly polls. Dhillon, who was flanked by BJP national vice president Manpreet Singh Badal, other senior leaders Sunil Jakhar and Ashwani Sharma, emphasised that it is not merely an anti-drug yatra, but an attempt to confront the grave threat that drugs pose to Punjab's culture, values and the proud identity of the land of the Gu-

rus.

Asserting that the drug problem is tearing families apart, particularly causing immense pain to mothers and sisters, Dhillon noted that the crisis was pushing Punjab's youth, traditionally known for their contribution to the armed forces, sports and nation-building, towards addiction, fuelling crime, violence and gang-related activities, worsening the law-and-order situation,

and imposing a heavy financial burden on families forced into debt or to sell their land and assets for treatment.

Sharing further details, Dhillon announced that the first yatra, flagged off by Nabin from Madhopur, Sujampur, in Pathankot, will conclude in Jalandhar. It will pass through the Assembly constituencies of Sujampur, Pathankot, Bhoa, Dina Nagar, Gurdaspur, Qadian, Sri Hargobindpur, Batala, Fatehgarh Churian, Dera Baba Nanak, Ajnala, Raja Sansi, Attari, Amritsar West, Amritsar Central, Amritsar South, Amritsar East, Amritsar North, Majitha, Jandiala, and Baba Bakala.

This yatra will also cover the assembly constituencies of Tarn Taran, Khadoor Sahib, Khem Karan, Patti, Ferozepur City, Guru Har Sahai, Ferozepur Rural, Zira,

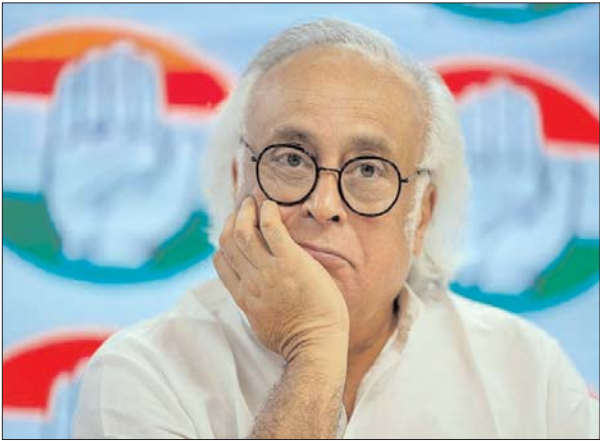
Modi govt sets new record for prorogation delay, plotting for 'super-tainted' 2/3rd majority: Cong

NEW DELHI, SEP 11: Taking a swipe at the Modi government, the Congress on Friday said it has set a new record for the delay in prorogation of Parliament after it adjourned sine die and alleged that Home Minister Amit Shah is now plotting to secure a "super-tainted" two-thirds majority to get the Constitution Amendment Bill involving delimitation passed in the Lok Sabha.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh also asked why is the Modi government refusing to convene an all-party meeting to discuss its proposals for delimitation so as to build the broadest possible consensus.

"So today the Modi government has set a new record, bettering its own set in 2015. The gap between the adjournment of Parliament sine die and its prorogation has reached 29 days. The gap for the 2015 Monsoon Session was 28 days," Ramesh said on X.

The gap for the 2026 Monsoon Session is increasing by the day with no clear prospect for its early proro-



gation, he said, adding that normally the gap is just three-four days.

"It is abundantly clear that the Union Home Minister was severely wounded by the stunning defeat he had inflicted on himself and his Govt with his staggering arrogance in the Lok Sabha on April 17, 2026," Ramesh said.

"He (Shah) is now plotting a comeback to secure a super-tainted two-thirds majority to get the Constitution Amendment Bill passed in the Lok Sabha. He has already engineered a split in three parties that had voted against the Bill on April 17, 2026 and is using threats, in-

timidation and incentives to get others (who had also voted against the Bill) to change their stance," the Congress leader alleged.

Union Home Minister does not have the numbers but his "bravado, bluff and bluster" will not let him read the writing on the wall, Ramesh said.

"By not proroguing the Monsoon Session, the self-styled Chanakya may think he is playing mind games and indulging in psy-ops. But this is silly since the government can convene a session any time it wants to for any purpose," Ramesh said.

Shah is just keeping the suspense going thinking that

the Opposition will get rattled, the Congress general secretary said, adding that the home minister can "continue to hallucinate".

"Why is the Modi government refusing to convene an All-Party meeting to discuss its proposals for delimitation so as to build the broadest possible consensus - which is what the country needs? This has been the consistent demand of all Opposition Parties since mid-March 2026," Ramesh said.

Why this secrecy and mystery on a subject that is of profound importance to the very fundamentals of the Indian Republic, Ramesh asked.

The Congress has been questioning the delay in proroguing Parliament's Monsoon session, saying "something fishy" was going on and the government was trying to conjure up a "super-tainted" two-thirds majority, but it would not succeed in achieving that.

During the Budget session on April 17, the Modi government faced a setback as the Constitution amendment bill, involving delimitation, for the implementation of

BJP MP Raghav Chadha attacks Mann govt in Punjab over drug issue

HANDIGARH, Sep 10 : BJP Rajya Sabha MP from Punjab Raghav Chadha on Thursday attacked the Bhagwant Mann government over the drug issue, alleging that 'chitta' is being sold in every street and there is even home delivery. Legislative Branch

"At present in Punjab, the drug situation is such that just as people stand in queues for ration, similar queues are now being seen for 'chitta' (synthetic drugs). Even home delivery of intoxicants and 'chitta' is taking place in Punjab," he said.

Drugs are being sold in every street, mohalla and villages, Chadha alleged.

He said the drug problem was at its peak for the past 15 years.

"During the past nearly five years of the AAP government, online delivery, home delivery of drugs... drugs have reached every street," he told reporters here.

"I want to ask the Punjab government what they are doing on the drug issue. People want to know what the government has done," he said.

also attacked the AAP government in Punjab over the alleged suicide of a villager who had questioned Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema about unabated



supply of drugs.

"I want to ask the Punjab government that they issue big advertisements claiming that the drug problem has been eradicated. What was the fault of Gulzar Singh, who only asked the Bhagwant Mann government that his son had fallen prey to drugs and was demanding justice?" he said.

Today, when someone raises questions from the Punjab government, he is being forced to even commit suicide, Chadha alleged.

"Gulzar Singh's crime was only that he questioned the Mann government over drugs. He raised a personal problem but Gulzar Singh was subjected to so much torture both physically and mentally that he had to commit suicide and had to record

a video to give his dying declaration," he said. Government

He said the incident has shaken everyone.

Gulzar Singh, a Dalit man from Dirba in Sangrur district, died on the night of September 7 after allegedly consuming poison. His family said he questioned Cheema about the supply of drugs in the area during an event in Dirba on September 6.

Chadha was speaking to reporters after participating in a meeting chaired by BJP national general secretary Satish Poonia to discuss the party's upcoming anti-drug yatra from September 18. The meeting was also attended by MPs Ashok Mittal, Sandeep Pathak, Satnam Singh Sandhu, national secretary Narinder Singh Raina and other party leaders in-

cluding Jai Inder Kaur, Rajesh Bagha and Anil Sareen.

Punjab unit chief Kewal Singh Dhillon and three other senior party leaders on Thursday met the family of Gulzar Singh and pressed for a CBI probe into the matter.

"When our BJP state president and other leaders go and meet the family, the administration and AAP people even prevent them from offering condolences to the bereaved family. Has offering condolences also become a crime in Punjab?" Chadha asked, further attacking the AAP government.

Referring to the meeting held at the Punjab BJP office on Thursday, Chadha said it was decided in the meeting that a 'Nasha-Mukt Punjab Yatra' would be organised from September 18 to September 30.

"We have to make Punjab drug-free and a detailed roadmap for the steps that the BJP will take will be presented during the yatra," he said.

Replying to a question on AAP questioning his vote, Chadha took a dig at AAP, saying, "I seem to be haunting the Aam Aadmi Party day and night... I feel AAP is behaving like a bitter ex who has just been dumped by a boyfriend, but they are still mad in his love. I worry that

Bangladesh police detain 63 foreigners over online fraud

DHAKA, SEPT 11: Bangladesh police have detained 63 foreigners, mostly from Laos, Pakistan and China, on charges of involvement in online fraud in the southeastern port city of Chattogram, officials said on Friday.

"Acting on secret information, a joint team of our detectives, counter-terrorism unit and RAB (Rapid Action Battalion) conducted a predawn raid at an eight-storey building in Chattogram and detained them on charges of online scamming," a police spokesperson said.

The detainees included 35 nationals of Laos, 21 Pakistanis, five Chinese, one Nepali and one Vietnamese national while the identification of the remaining detainees was still underway, the spokesperson said.

Among the 63 arrested individuals, there were 41 men, 21 women and a child.



Khulshi police station chief Mohammad Abdur Rahim said police seized equipment allegedly used for fraudulent activities, along with 131 mobile phones, 56 laptops, US dollars and other foreign currencies.

Data stored on the seized electronic devices were being examined to determine the nature of the activities being conducted from the building, he said.

Port city police spokesman Aminur Rashid said the detainees were being questioned and legal documents related to their stay in Bangladesh were also being scrutinised.

The development came more than a week after police in the southeastern beach town of Cox's Bazar detained five Chinese and one Taiwanese national in a similar raid at a luxury hotel.

Police had seized nearly 2,000 iPhones and dozens of laptops allegedly used to manage hundreds of fake online identities in that operation.

Since May, police have arrested dozens of foreigners, including 19 Chinese nationals, in similar raids in Dhaka, Chattogram and Cox's Bazar on charges of involvement in online fraud, according to officials. (PTI)

Over 50 jewellery shops sealed in Chandni Chowk; MCD says illegal shops running from basements

NEW DELHI, SEP 11: At least 56 jewellery and bullion-related shops in Chandni Chowk's Kucha Mahajani were sealed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Thursday, traders said, claiming that jewellery and bullion worth crores remain locked inside the premises.

The action comes amid an intensified enforcement drive by the MCD against dangerous and illegal buildings across the city following the Satya Niketan building collapse, in which seven people were killed.

MCD officials, however, said 54 ille-

gal shops operating from basements at properties in Kucha Mahajani were sealed on the directions of the Monitoring Committee/Supreme Court.

The civic body said the shops were sealed for carrying out illegal commercial activities in violation of the Unified Building Bye-Laws (UBBL)-2016 and Master Plan Delhi (MPD)-2021, including non-compliance with mandatory Fire Department and other statutory clearances.

"The action was taken against illegal commercial activities being carried out in violation of UBBL-2016 and MPD-

2021, including non-compliance with mandatory Fire Department and other statutory clearances, with a view to preventing any untoward incident and safeguarding public safety. Sealing orders were issued under Section 345-A read with Section 347 of the DMC Act, pursuant to which all 54 illegal shops were sealed," the MCD said in a statement.

Yogesh Singhal, president of the All India Bullion and Jewellers Association, stated that notices were posted on the shops, and the sealing occurred around 11.30 am on Thursday.

What to know about Sunday's election in Sweden, NATO's newest member

STOCKHOLM, SEPT 11: Sweden is holding an election on Sunday that will determine whether a conservative leader remains in charge and a hard-right party wins ministerial jobs for the first time, or whether the centre-left returns to power.

Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson is seeking a second four-year term at the helm of the European Union nation that is also NATO's newest member. His predecessor hopes to win the job back. The question of who will govern has taken up more space than actual policy issues.

More than 8 million people in the nation of about 10.6 million people are eligible to vote in the election for the 349-seat parliament in Stockholm, the Riksdag, which will elect the next prime minister.

Kristersson has led Sweden since 2022 with a three-party centre-right coalition. It relies on outside support from the Sweden Democrats, an anti-immigration party that has far-right roots but has moved toward the political mainstream, for a parliamentary majority. If the right is re-elected, it can expect Cabinet posts this time. Political news coverage

He's up against Magdalena Andersson of the centre-left Social Democrats, a party that more often than not led Swedish governments since World War II. Andersson served as prime minister from 2021 until she lost power at the last election.

Experts say the campaign has been fragmented and incoherent, with policy questions such as how health care should be organised drowned out by the question of which parties will be able to put together a government.

"Crime has come down, inflation has come down. So these topics are not really what people discuss," said Zeth Isaksson, a sociologist in electoral behaviour at Stockholm University. "People dis-



cuss who is going to be in government, and that's what the election is about."

There are two major political blocs: one with four parties on the right and another with four parties on the left. So the big question is not so much which party wins as which side can put together a majority. Individual parties need a minimum 4 per cent of the vote to win parliamentary seats.

On the face of it, "it would be a sensation if the opposition parties, having been ahead in the opinion polls pretty much for four years since the last election, didn't now win a majority," said Nicholas Aylott, associate professor of political science at Södertörn University.

But he said that an "extremely defensive" campaign by the Social Democrats may have cost them some support, leaving some voters wondering why they should support the party. The right-wing bloc's hope of convincing voters that it's more united than its rivals may have had "a little impact," he added.

One significant thing is different in this election. The Sweden Democrats, who in 2022 took 20.5 per cent of the vote to become the biggest party on the right, can expect Cabinet seats if power doesn't change hands.

Kristersson announced in

April that his conservative Moderates would allow them into government if the right has a majority -- though he would remain prime minister, even if the Sweden Democrats are the stronger party.

The Sweden Democrats were founded in the 1980s by people who had been active in right-wing extremist groups, including neo-Nazis. They toned down their rhetoric and expelled openly racist members under Jimmie Åkesson, who has led them since 2005 and overseen their growth from what was once a marginal party.

"There's some, I won't say fear, but trepidation, apprehension about the possibility of Sweden Democrat ministers," Aylott said, and the Social Democrats recently have tried to exploit that.

But even as parties on the populist right gain elsewhere in Europe, for instance in a far-right triumph in a weekend state election in Germany, the election may reinforce the impression that the Sweden Democrats "have peaked to some extent," Isaksson said.

Not so much. "The biggest threat to Sweden's security is from the war in Ukraine and there is almost complete consensus in Sweden about support for Ukraine and deep antipathy towards Russia," Aylott said.

Sweden's Psychological Defence Agency said that the country's election isn't Russia's top priority, as that broad support reduces the incentive for Moscow to interfere.

However, just over a week before the election, Expo magazine published a report alleging that a civil servant working in parliament for the Sweden Democrats had spread Russian state narratives on social networks. She is the partner of the head of the party's coordination office with the government, Gustav Gellerbrant.

Gellerbrant said her posts were taken out of context and were meant as irony and sarcasm. He said he decided to go on parental leave to avoid shifting the focus of the election campaign.

Kristersson, who said that "there is no room for pro-Russian narratives in Sweden," welcomed that decision.

After decades of post-World War II neutrality and centuries of broader non-alignment with major powers, Sweden joined NATO in 2024 as the trans-Atlantic military alliance's 32nd member. The move to join was initiated by Andersson's government after Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and completed under Kristersson. (AP)