

Police sending notices to CJP activists, asking them not to participate in Oct 10 protest: Dipke

CHHATRAPATI (MAHARASHTRA), Oct 6: Cockroach Janta Party leader Abhijeet Dipke on Tuesday alleged that police in Maharashtra's Chandrapur were sending notices to CJP activists and pressuring them not to attend the October 10 protest in Delhi, and asked why Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was trying to be "Yogi Adityanath 2.0".

Describing the police's actions as a form of "dictatorship", he said Fadnavis should not "misuse" police for his political ambitions.

Holding a press conference here, Dipke also took swipes at the BJP-led central government, saying that 'One Nation, One Election' was merely a slogan and the real objective was "one nation, one political party".

The CJP has announced that it would launch a fresh agitation at Jantar Mantar from October 10 to press for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar who is under fire over the SIR exercise and functioning of the poll body.

"I have said multiple times that the Maharashtra Police is the best police force in the country, and the Delhi Police should learn from them. But it is heart-breaking that the Chandrapur police served notices to CJP workers, asking them not to participate in the protest at Jantar Mantar. They also asked CJP workers about the source of funds for travelling to Jantar Mantar."

"The police stated (in the notice) that the agitation is



going to be "violent". How do the police know so early that the agitation would be violent? Have they planned anything in advance?" he asked.

Why is the Maharashtra Police behaving like Delhi Police? What do they have to do if a person is going to Delhi from Chandrapur?" he said.

Targeting Fadnavis, the CJP leader said he should be aware of Maharashtra's legacy.

"Why Devendra Fadnavis is trying to be UP CM Yogi Adityanath 2.0? He should know about the legacy of Maharashtra. He should not disrespect and misuse the Maharashtra Police for political ambitions. Instead of harassing our workers, they should arrest me...If they want they should put me behind the bars and charge me with UAPA, NSA. They should not harass our workers," he said.

According to Dipke, he came across two notices issued by police in Chandrapur district and claimed that similar notices were also issued in Rajasthan by the local CID to a person named

Mukesh, warning him of legal action if he attended the October 10 protest.

He also criticised the police over directions to CJP activists against posting anything on social media that could lead to violence. "We speak about (Mahatma) Gandhi and B R Ambedkar. Do they think it is violent?" he asked.

Rahul Pawara, who is leading a protest of tribal students in Maharashtra, was also facing harassment by police, Dipke alleged.

"Yesterday, the Adivasi students led by Rahul Pawara faced repression in Mumbai and some students were beaten up. If the son of Ambani or an MP, MLA was protesting, would the police behave in such a manner?" he asked, adding that Pawara was fighting to secure good education for tribal students.

Maharashtra Police were once compared to Scotland Yard (London Police) because of their efficiency, and they should maintain that image, Dipke said.

Referring to an ACP of Delhi police who has faced

accusations of sexual harassing women journalists, Dipke claimed he was promoted "as a reward" and asked if Maharashtra police wanted such a "benchmark"

Talking about the ongoing agitation of the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) aspirants, he said they were asking for leak-proof examinations, accountability and removal of those responsible for paper leaks, and the government should understand their anger. Newspaper Advertising Space

He also questioned Vivek Bhimanwar's appointment in the past as MPSC chairman by the Governor. "Why did the Governor appoint the Chief Minister's friend as Chairman of MPSC?...I am very sorry to say this, but in this era, the Governor is merely a puppet of those who are sitting in the government," Dipke said.

He reiterated that the entire country will become Jantar Mantar if Gyanesh Kumar was not removed as CEC.

"We have three demands.

First is the resignation of Gyanesh Kumar, along with that, he should be booked under criminal charges and the SIR should be stopped. The last demand is that the appointment of Election Commissioner should be done independently and neutrally," Dipke said, adding that the EC should not be merely the "choice of Amit Shah and Narendra Modi." (PTI)

INDIA Bloc Protest March Against CEC: Rahul, Priyanka Enter Akashvani Bhawan Premises

NEW DELHI, OCT 6: High drama unfolded at the INDIA bloc march from Parliament Street to the Election Commission headquarters here on Tuesday as Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra along with some other supporters entered the Akashvani Bhawan premises in a bid to reach the poll body's office.

The Congress leaders along with other MPs were earlier stopped by security personnel on Parliament Street near Niti Aayog office during their march to demand Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation.

After being prevented from proceeding further, they sat on the road in protest. Soon Rahul Gandhi and TMC's Abhisekh Banerjee climbed atop a police barricade, while Priyanka Gandhi was taken to a awaiting bus for being detained.

However, she was soon seen alighting from it and joined her brother at the Akashvani gate.

Despite being prevented by police, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and Deepinder Hooda entered the Akashvani Bhawan premises from the reception gate. They were later seen sitting under a tree.

Area Deputy Commissioner of Police Sachin Sharma reached the spot with a large posse of policemen in a bid to evict the protesting opposition members.

During the march, opposition MPs were seen carrying cutouts depicting Kumar in an RSS uniform and raised slogans, including "BJP hai CEC hai", "Vote chor, gaddi chhod" and "Democracy not for sale".

In a post on X, Rahul Gandhi posted, "Gyanesh it's done bro. Time to resign".

Heavy security deployment and barricading had been put in place in and around Parliament and the Election Commission headquarters ahead of the march.



quarters ahead of the march. Security personnel were stationed in the area much before the MPs began arriving.

The MPs gathered at Parliament's Makar Dwar before setting off towards Nirvachan Sadan, the Election Commission headquarters.

Ahead of the march, opposition MPs questioned the security arrangements and stepped up their demand for Kumar's resignation, citing the Supreme Court's observations on changes to Form 6, the statutory application for enrolment as a voter.

Congress MP Imran Masood accused Kumar of eroding public trust in the Election Commission.

"Across the country, the institution that Gyanesh Kumar headed was an institution the entire country trusted, an institution the entire country took pride in and felt proud of. Questions were never raised over its impartiality. One person has broken that trust," he told PTI Videos.

"And an entire nexus is working together. We will question Gyanesh Kumar, and the BJP chief ministers will start giving the answers," he alleged.

CPI MP P Sandosh Kumar

said the Supreme Court's observations on Monday had strengthened the opposition's objections to the additional declaration attached to Form 6 during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

"On September 26, there was a press statement by the Commission and it was stated that the entire process related to Form 6 has been ratified by the Supreme Court. Whereas it has been proven that it is an entirely misleading statement," he alleged. Calling the CEC a "Cheating Election Commissioner", the CPI leader said opposition parties had been agitating against the provisions since 2025 and would intensify their movement.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut questioned the scale of security deployment ahead of the march, saying the MPs intended to proceed peacefully.

"We are MPs. We are members of Parliament. We are also citizens of this country. Why is there a need to deploy such a large force to stop us? We will walk and go. We are unarmed," he said.

Raut claimed that Border Security Force and CISF personnel had been deployed and security outside ministers' residences increased.

Accusing Kumar of misleading the public over the Supreme Court's position on Form 6, he said the CEC had "no moral right" to continue in office.

The Supreme Court on Monday said it had not approved any modified version of Form 6 and would examine the Election Commission's records to ascertain whether changes had been made and who had authorised them.

The observations were made while hearing a petition challenging alleged unilateral decisions by Kumar.

In its September 26 statement, the Commission had said the declaration attached to Form 6 for SIR had been upheld by the Supreme Court, while forms prescribed under the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, would be used outside the SIR period.

The protest comes amid an opposition campaign over alleged irregularities in the SIR exercise and reports of differences within the three-member Commission. The poll body has rejected suggestions of a split and maintained that decisions relating to SIR were taken unanimously. (Agencies)

Women account for over 57 pc of online medical consultations through eSanjeevani

NEW DELHI, OCT 6: Women account for 57.14 per cent of the consultations availed through eSanjeevani, while 40.15 per cent of consultations were availed by citizens aged 46 years and above, indicating the wider reach of telemedicine among women and older people, the government said on Tuesday as the national platform crossed 50 crore teleconsultations milestone.

The milestone marks a significant expansion of digital healthcare delivery in the country, with eSanjeevani enabling patients to access medical consultations remotely and helping bridge geographical barriers to healthcare

The platform crossed the landmark on September 15, 2026, recording a cumulative 50,00,92,730 teleconsultations across all 36 states and Union Territories, the health ministry said in a statement.



The achievement reflects the growing role of telemedicine in complementing the country's existing healthcare delivery system and in overcoming barriers of distance, geography and access, particularly for citizens living in rural, remote and underserved areas, it said.

The service has witnessed rapid and sustained expansion since its inception. The eSanjeevani currently supports more than 1.42 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandir spokes, 19,473 medical hubs

and 901 online OPDs, with 2,41,923 registered healthcare providers.

Available in 15 languages, including English and 14 Indian languages, the platform is facilitating approximately 2.5-3 lakh consultations every day. Its highest single-day utilisation has reached 6,30,315 consultations, reflecting the increasing acceptance and utilisation of telemedicine services across the country, the statement said.

Women account for 57.14

per cent of total utilisation, while 40.15 per cent of consultations are availed by citizens aged 46 years and above, including 16.25 per cent by senior citizens aged 60 years and above," it said.

"The significant participation of women and older citizens underscores the potential of telemedicine to make healthcare more convenient and accessible while complementing services available through the public health system," it added.

The continued evolution of the platform underscores the government's commitment to harnessing digital public infrastructure and indigenous technological capabilities to bridge geographical barriers, strengthen the continuum of care and advance the goal of Universal Health Coverage, ensuring that quality healthcare is brought closer to citizens across the country. (PTI)

Punjab Govt Moves SC Against HC-Ordered CBI Probe Into Graft Allegations Linked To Mann's Office

CHANDIGARH, OCT 6: The Punjab government on Tuesday moved the Supreme Court challenging a Punjab and Haryana High Court order directing the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to register a criminal case and probe corruption allegations linked to the office of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

The High Court on Monday ordered the federal agency to investigate allegations arising from material shared by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) with Punjab Police and submit a report within two months.

The allegations include claims of corruption in transfers and postings, influence over government policies and tenders, access to confidential documents and facilitation of arms licences. The allegations have not been established by a court.

The Punjab government has now filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking relief against the High Court's direc-

tions, according to reports on Tuesday. State Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema had said after the High Court ruling that the government would challenge the order in the apex court.

"We will challenge this matter in the Supreme Court," Cheema said.

The High Court order came on a public interest litigation filed by advocate Nikhil Saraf, who alleged that Punjab Police had failed to take appropriate action despite communications from the ED seeking a probe into the allegations.

A division bench of Chief Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra and Justice Rohit Kapoor examined the handling of the ED material by Punjab Police and questioned the delay in taking the investigation forward.

Referring to the course of the state police inquiry, the bench observed that the information supplied by the ED had resulted in a "journey with all travel and no reaching."

The court also noted that Rajbir Singh

Ghuman, Officer on Special Duty to Chief Minister Mann and one of the people referred to in the ED material, had neither been associated with the preliminary inquiry nor asked for his response.

According to the ED allegations cited in court proceedings, private individual Nitin Gohal acted as an intermediary between people seeking government favours and Ghuman. The alleged favours included transfers and postings and other official benefits.

The High Court directed the state government and Punjab Police to cooperate with the CBI, saying: "State of Punjab as well as Punjab Police would render all assistance to the CBI in carrying out of fair investigation."

The Supreme Court challenge opens a new legal front in the case.

As of Tuesday morning, there was no reported order from the Supreme Court staying the High Court's CBI probe direction. (UNI)

UN chief arrives in Pakistan on official visit

ISLAMABAD, OCT 6: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres arrived in Islamabad on Tuesday on an official visit, during which he will meet the country's top leadership and discuss regional and international developments.

Guterres is undertaking the official visit from October 6 to 8 at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, according to the Foreign Office.

Upon arrival, the UN chief was received by Acting Foreign Secretary Ambassador Nabeel Muni.

Separately, the Foreign Office said the secretary-general will hold talks with Pakistan's top leadership, including President Asif Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dar and Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Muinir.

Guterres will visit the headquarters of the United



Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan and attend a briefing at Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority.

He will also have other engagements during the visit, during which Pakistan will highlight its efforts in strengthening multilateralism and international peace and security, as well as its strides towards disaster pre-

paredness and early warning.

The visit will "offer an important opportunity to reiterate Pakistan's long-standing cooperation with the United Nations, and to exchange views on regional and international developments", the Foreign Office said.

It added that the visit will also provide an opportunity

to acknowledge the able leadership and vital contributions of Guterres in the areas of international peace and development.

The visit reflects Pakistan's unwavering support for multilateralism with the UN at its core, and its abiding commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, according to the Foreign Office. (PTI)

12 buses destroyed in major fire at BEST's Anik depot in Mumbai; none hurt

MUMBAI, OCT 6 : Twelve new buses were gutted in a major fire at Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) undertaking's Anik bus depot in central Mumbai on Monday evening, though there are no reports of injuries, officials said. Get Prep Kits

The fire broke out at 5:45 pm in the Anik depot yard and involved some CNG-run buses parked in a row, a BEST spokesperson said.

A civic official said at least four fire en-

gines, five water tankers and other fire-fighting vehicles were rushed to the spot, and the blaze was brought under control after more than an hour.

The official said twelve air-conditioned 'midi buses' (single-decker mini buses) procured for the undertaking's fleet were destroyed in the fire that was extinguished at around 8.20 pm, nearly two and a half hours after it erupted.

The BEST spokesperson said that the buses were from private operator Daga

Group.

According to BEST officials, the operator has been replacing its old fleet with new buses over the past few months. So far, more than 140 new buses have been added to its fleet, while over 50 more are expected to be inducted.

The 12 buses that were gutted were part of the consignment of new buses, they said, adding that the cause of the fire is being ascertained.