

INDIA Bloc Leaders To File Plea Against CEC In Supreme Court: Rahul Gandhi

**NEW DELHI, OCT 12:** Upping the ante against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said INDIA bloc leaders will march to the Supreme Court on Monday and file a petition against the poll panel chief and 'vote chori'.

Addressing a press conference at the Indira Bhawan headquarters of the Congress, he also asked the CEC to turn approver and resign as the opposition's fight was against the bigger powers that were behind him.

"Resign, turn approver; you (Kumar) have made a mistake but you are not the mind behind the mistake," he said.

"We know Gyanesh Kumar is unable to sleep at night; I am telling him directly 'you will not survive as CEC'", he said.

Gandhi also claimed that 200 officers of the government were in "touch with them" and providing them with information.

Noting that there was resistance earlier too but it had not spilled over the streets in the form of protests, the former Congress president said this fight is not going to stop and will continue even if it takes days or years.

People should have perseverance and continue with the protests as the country cannot be saved in a day or two, he said, while describing the current protests as "tandav".

"This is like Shiva's dance and anyone can join Shiva's 'baraat' (wedding procession)," he said.

INDIA bloc leaders are set to take out a "Chalo Delhi - March for Democracy" to the Supreme Court on Monday and will then file a petition before the court.

Opposition leaders have converged at the Connaught



Place-Barakhamba Road junction for the march.

"We had written a letter to the CJI. He directed us to file a petition. Now, leaders of the INDIA alliance will march to the Supreme Court against 'vote theft' and file the petition. In this fight to protect democracy and the Constitution, fellow citizens, let us march step in step with us. Reach Connaught Place and become part of this march. If you can't come, raise your voice from wherever you are!" Gandhi said on X using the hashtag "#ChaloDilli".

"We invite all Indians to support us," he said, adding anyone who wants to protect the Constitution, no matter which party they belong to, can come.Explore History

"If people from the BJP also think that an attack is being made on the Constitution, then you come too. This is a fight to save the Constitution, a fight for your future. If you can't come directly, then when we are filing a petition in the Supreme Court at 3 PM, show solidarity and express yourself. Tell the country that what the Modi government is doing is wrong and we won't let it happen," Gandhi said, adding that they don't need to be afraid.

The Leader of Opposition

in Lok Sabha noted that there were multiple fights taking place and claimed that there is a perception fight with the government on one side and the children and rest of India on the other.

"We want India to believe that India is not scared of anything. Forget Narendra Modi, India can never be scared of anyone," he said while asserting that, "We are fighting multiple battles... We are winning on all fronts".

Referring to curbs in the city, Gandhi said the fact that Delhi is barricaded is an "illusion", because the minds of Delhi are not barricaded.

"People can see that Narendra Modi is blocking the entire town, because of what - prove to us that you have not cheated in the election," he said.

Asserting that the Constitution is their religion, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha said "till the time the Constitution is not upheld, the Election Commissioner does not go and election system is not revamped, the youth of the country are not going to stop."

"Five criminals will face justice. Five criminals have attacked the idea of India and attacked its soul. We will not budge or stop, no matter how much time it takes," he

said.

"Narendra Modi's blueprint, his horoscope is with us. And this fight is to save the Constitution and not about Rahul Gandhi or Narendra Modi. We don't hold importance in this fight.

"The importance is of India and its Constitution, the expression of people and the future of the country. I urge all opposition leaders, all party workers, the youth that this is the fight for your future and your dignity and please join us," he said.

The opposition has been demanding the resignation of the CEC after a report by The Indian Express said Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi objected on record at least 14 times over the last 10 months, mostly to decisions and orders related to the SIR of electoral rolls.

Under fire over objections raised by two of its commissioners, the Election Commission had asserted that differing views and observations are a normal part of deliberations in any institution and that all its orders carry full legal sanction and follow established statutory procedures.

Gandhi also questioned the curbs imposed across Delhi "The question is why is Delhi jailed. Why is the capital city of India in jail. People are being stopped from reaching Delhi. People are being stopped from coming in buses and trains. Delhi has been turned into a fortress," he said.

With police posted everywhere, he said, they want that 30,000 cops should be standing on the roads. "We want to show to the country that the Narendra Modi government is protecting Gyanesh Kumar. The more they do so, the better for us," he asserted.

Goa Nightclub Fire: HC Asks Luthra Brothers To Pay Interim Aid Of Rs 20 Lakh Each To Victims' Kin

**PANAJI, OCT 12:** The Bombay High Court on Monday directed Saurabh Luthra and Gaurav Luthra, owners of 'Birch by Romeo Lane' nightclub, to deposit an interim compensation of Rs 20 lakh each for the families of the 25 people killed in the devastating fire at their establishment in North Goa last year.

A division bench of Justices Valmiki Menezes and Amit Jamsandekar issued the directive while hearing a petition regarding relief for the victims of the December 2025 blaze at Arpora in North Goa, clarifying that the deposit would be subject

to final contentions in the main matter.

Advocate Prachi Sawant, representing the victims' families, informed the court that they had sought a compensation of Rs 50 lakh each, against the Rs 25 lakh offered by the nightclub owners. "I had explained to them, but they requested that something close to ₹50 lakh could be paid," Sawant told the court.

The bench suggested that the owners deposit ₹20 lakh each as interim compensation without prejudice to their contentions in the main matter.

"Deposit the amount in

the court. Their fight continues in the main matter," the judges observed, asking the parties to work out the arrangement before the next hearing.

Sawant also informed the families of four tourists, who died in the blaze, had filed a case before a consumer court in Haryana.

She said she had not yet been able to obtain responses from all the victims' families regarding the proposed compensation.

The court asked the amicus curiae appointed in the matter to prepare a detailed list of cases pending in connection with the incident.

The bench asked the parties to discuss the proposed interim compensation and inform it of the outcome by October 21, when the matter will be taken up again.

The fire broke out on December 6, 2025, at the nightclub in Arpora village in North Goa, when it was hosting a dance party. As many as 25 people were killed, and 50 were injured in the incident.

The Luthra brothers, who had fled to Thailand after the incident, were deported from that nation on December 17 and are currently lodged in Colvale Central Jail in North Goa. (Agencies)

Modi govt waging war against citizens to protect CEC: Abhijeet Dipke

**CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR,**

**OCT 12:** Cockroach Janta Party convenor Abhijeet Dipke on Monday accused the Narendra Modi government of waging a war against citizens to protect Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar amid growing demands for his resignation.

The activist reached his native village, Santuk Pimpri, in Hingoli district of Maharashtra late last night, and visited the site where his grandmother's final rites were performed.

In a sharp post on X, Dipke wrote, "Youth are being as-



saulted, journalists are being assaulted, even MPs are being assaulted by Delhi Police.

What makes Gyanesh Kumar so indispensable to Modi that he is willing to

wage war against everyone just to protect him?"

Dipke, along with CJP leaders Ashutosh Ranka and Saurav Das, were put under preventive arrest at the Delhi airport ahead of the Jantar Mantar protest on Saturday. They were released on Sunday on condition that they would not "breach peace" for a year.

The CJP and opposition parties have been demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision of voter rolls. (Agencies)

North Korea fires multiple ballistic missiles, adding to streak of weapons tests

**SEOUL, OCT 12:** North Korea on Monday fired multiple ballistic missiles toward its eastern waters, South Korea's military said, adding to a recent streak of weapons demonstrations that has heightened tensions during a prolonged freeze in diplomacy.

Jang Do-young, spokesperson of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, said missiles of various types were fired from an area around the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, where the country's main airport has been a major launch site in recent years.

Jang said one of the missiles flew more than 900 kilometers (559 miles) before falling into the sea but didn't comment on the flight details of the other weapons. The joint chiefs didn't spec-

ify how many missiles it detected.

Japan's Deputy Defense Minister Takashi Koyari said Japan detected at least two missiles launched 17 minutes apart and that the weapons landed in waters outside of its exclusive economic zone. Koyari said the first missile flew about 220 kilometers (137 miles) and the second more than 910 kilometers (565 miles), following an "irregular" flight path that he said suggested it may have been a hypersonic weapon. There were no reports of damage to aircraft or vessels.

While maintaining a hard line toward Seoul, North Korea has been ramping up weapons testing as it seeks to expand its arsenal of nuclear-capable systems, including an Oct. 3 test of what the North described as a hyper-

sonic intermediate-range missile designed to evade missile defenses in South Korea and Japan.

North Korea has also conducted other missile tests and live-fire drills and commissioned a new warship as leader Kim Jong Un continues to flaunt his nuclear weapons program while rejecting U.S. and South Korean offers to resume long-stalled diplomacy.

The latest launch came days after South Korea on Friday flight-tested its own domestically developed hypersonic weapon, designed to fly at least five times the speed of sound and evade missile defense systems, which President Lee Jae Myung described as critical in strengthening the South's conventional defense capabilities. Without directly ad-

ressing the growing threat from North Korea, Lee's office said the hypersonic weapon, once fully developed, would enhance South Korea's ability to strike key targets by surprise in the "Korean Peninsula theater of operations."

Jang, the South Korean military official, said the latest North Korean launches likely were intended to advance the country's missile technologies while also serving as a possible response to South Korea's hypersonic test.

The South's presidential national security office called for North Korea to "immediately cease" its repeated ballistic launches, which violate U.N. Security Council resolutions against the North and "do not help manage the current situation on the Korean Peninsula."

Long Covid May Impact Bacteria In Mouth, Lungs: Study

**NEW DELHI, OCT 12:** People with long Covid, where symptoms persist after recovery from an acute Covid-19 infection, may have distinct differences in the mix of bacteria living in their mouths and lungs, research has shown.

The differences in the lung microbiome are linked to respiratory symptoms, as well as the cognitive and digestive problems known to occur in long Covid, researchers said.

The findings, published in the European Respiratory Journal, may contribute towards understanding why some people develop long Covid and point to new ways

to treat the condition, they said.

"Prior studies have shown some changes in the gut microbiome with long Covid, but Covid is a lung disease and so it makes sense to look to see if the lung microbiome is changed in long Covid," lead author Daniela Alferes de Lima Headley from the University of Dundee, UK, said.

"We know that millions of people worldwide are still affected by long Covid and its cause is still unknown. Long Covid affects multiple organs. The microbiome is important to maintain health throughout the body, so it is a strong candidate for some-

thing that may contribute to long Covid," she said.

The study examined 771 people treated for Covid-19 at one of 38 UK hospitals between February 2020 and March 2021.

The participants were divided into four groups based on how bad their symptoms were five months after being discharged from hospital, ranging from 'very severe' with serious physical, mental, and cognitive impairments to 'mild', with few symptoms and good recovery.

Six months after hospital discharge, samples were collected from patients' mouths through saliva and from their

lungs through sputum. DNA sequencing was used to identify the microbes present.

By analysing the variety and quantities of microbes and comparing them with patients' symptoms, researchers found that people with very severe long Covid had marked differences in their oral and lung microbiomes compared with those who did not have severe long Covid.

The results also revealed differences linked to specific symptoms, including reduced lung function, in which the lungs cannot hold as much air as normal or air cannot flow in and out as easily.

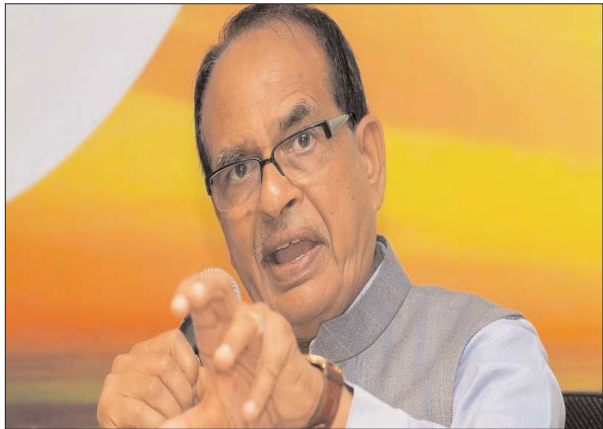
Pure theatrics by Rahul; Cong's leadership, not EC responsible for its losses: BJP on oppn march to SC

**NEW DELHI, OCT 12:** Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday decried Rahul Gandhi's march to the Supreme Court as a "drama", alleging that the Congress has been blaming the Election Commission for its defeats while its own "visionless" leadership is responsible for the electoral setbacks.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters, the senior leader also slammed Gandhi for describing the Congress and anti-CEC movement as "Shiv Ki Baraat", saying it is rather a "group of hooligans" creating anarchy on the streets.

"The Congress has been attacking constitutional institutions for the last several years and blaming them for its defeats, while its own leadership is responsible for its electoral setbacks," Chouhan said.

"The Election Commission is not the reason for the Congress's defeat. The reason for the defeat of the Congress is its 'vichar shunya' (vision-



less) leadership, which does not know the country, does not know its people, does not know its values of life and does not know its traditions," he alleged.

Slamming Gandhi for his march to the Supreme Court for a meeting with the Chief Justice of India, Chouhan said, without elaborating, that everybody knows what has been his stance towards the judiciary and what were his views about a former CJI earlier.Explore History

"Nevertheless, even meet-

ing the CJI involves a specific procedure. You cannot simply write a letter and show up whenever you feel like it. This is just a drama, pure theatrics, nothing but theatrics," the senior BJP leader said.

Chouhan also assailed Gandhi for calling the Congress and its anti-CEC stir as "Shiv Ki Baraat", quipping, "Those who oppose Ram are talking about Lord Shiv."

"It is not Lord Shiv's 'Baraat' but a mob of unruly elements attempting to spread anarchy on the

streets," he said.

Taking a dig at Gandhi's remarks, Chouhan asked what the country or the Congress can expect from him when he himself admits that he does not plan.

"I reiterate that the reason for the defeat (of the Congress in polls) is precisely this lack of planning, this mindset of simply setting out whenever one feels like it," he added.

Chouhan alleged that the Congress is trying to create anarchy in cahoots with foreign forces in its bid to come to power at the Centre because it has "fallen in the eyes of the people and lost their trust".

"It must have been only after millions of liars had died that Rahul Gandhi was born," the BJP leader charged, when asked about the Congress leader's recent remarks about President Droupadi and his claim that half of the security personnel deployed in Delhi have told him that he is doing good work. (PTI)

**NEW DELHI, OCT 12:**

BJP MP Anurag Thakur on Monday accused Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu of turning Himachal Bhawan into a "political adda" of the Congress, alleging that party workers staging protests there caused inconvenience to officials and the public.

Earlier, Himachal Pradesh Congress Mahila Sangathan staged a protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar at Himachal Bhawan.

Speaking to reporters here, Thakur alleged that 200 to 250 Congress workers had gathered at Himachal Bhawan in the Mandi House area to stage a protest, making it difficult for people to access the premises and for officials and others to move in and out.

political activities, recalling that party workers who staged a shirtless protest during the AI Summit were allegedly given shelter at Himachal Bhawan and subsequently in Himachal Pradesh.

"Congress leaders have been making reckless statements against constitutional institutions. Now, they have turned Himachal Bhawan into a political hub as well," Thakur said.

"This is not the first instance. During the AI Summit, Congress staged a shameless, shirtless protest before the world, and Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu provided shelter to the Congress workers who fled there, first at Himachal Bhawan and then in Himachal Pradesh," he claimed.

"Today, Congress workers have shamelessly gathered at Himachal Bhawan in Mandi

House. Around 200-250 people have made it difficult for ordinary people to enter. Himachal officials, leaders and others are also facing difficulties in entering and leaving the premises," Thakur said.

Accusing the Sukhu government of pushing Himachal Pradesh deeper into debt, the BJP leader alleged that the state was being burdened with record debt while its establishment in the national capital was being used for political activities.

"Turning Himachal Bhawan into a political hub shows that they are pushing Himachal Pradesh into debt and using Himachal Bhawan in Delhi as a political centre. They have burdened the state with record debt and are crossing every limit to stage protests here," he said.

"They have burdened the state with a record level of debt, while crossing every

limit to stage protests here. They have pushed Himachal Pradesh into distress and turned Himachal Bhawan into a political hub," he added.

The opposition has been demanding the resignation of CEC Kumar after a report by The Indian Express claimed that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi objected on record at least 14 times over the last 10 months, mostly to decisions and orders related to the SIR of electoral rolls.Explore History

Under fire over objections raised by two of its commissioners, the Election Commission had asserted that differing views and observations are a normal part of deliberations in any institution and that all its orders carry full legal sanction and follow established statutory procedures. (PTI)