



BAJIRAO IAS ACADEMY

THE HINDU ANALYSIS

15 AUGUST 2025



**TRUMP - PUTIN SUMMIT
MEETING IN ALASKA**



Supreme Court's Order on Bihar SIR

Publish list of 65 lakh deleted voter names with reasons, SC directs EC

Searchable list to be uploaded on website, Aadhaar to be accepted as ID

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

THE SUPREME Court, in an interim order Thursday, directed the Election Commission of India to make available online a searchable list of approximately 65 lakh voter names omitted from the draft electoral roll for Bihar with reasons for deletion such as death, migration, duplication etc.

"Since this action can have some civil consequences of depriving a citizen or a person of the right to franchise, a fair procedure is required," Justice Surya Kant, heading the bench also comprising Justice Joymalya Bagchi, observed.

The EC agreed to publish the list of approximately 65 lakh voters whose names appear in the voter list of 2025 but are not included in the draft list following



Justices Surya Kant, Joymalya Bagchi

the Special Intensive Revision exercise in Bihar.

The bench said the list of deletions be made searchable and directed the EC to give wide publicity on its website. It asked the EC to file a status report by August 19 and said it would monitor the issue again on August 22, the next date of hearing.

Senior Advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the EC, said the list, which has already been provided to Booth Level

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Bench sends a reminder on right to vote, fairness and transparency

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

UNDERLINING THE right of enfranchisement, the Supreme Court Thursday asked the Election Commission of India (ECI) to ensure fairness and transparency in the process,

even as it allowed the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar.

"Let's proceed on the premise that you have the power to go for SIR.

Going by that, there are 7.90 crore voters in January 2025. Of them, 7.24 crore have already filled forms and remaining are



65 lakh. Out of 65 lakh, you say 22 lakh are dead. You must have heard there are serious disputes on whether someone is dead or alive.

What is the mechanism to know these people so that the family can know their member has

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Opp hails SC order, calls it a victory; Cong clutching at 'non-issues': BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

THE OPPOSITION welcomed the Supreme Court's directions Thursday on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise

in Bihar, calling it a "victory" for democracy and a "sharp slap" to "the BJP's Election Commission".

Countering this, the BJP said "no one was opposed" to the SIR, and claimed that the Court's directions actually meant "disappointment" for the Congress.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge called the Supreme Court's order a victory for "millions of aware citizens" and the first success of Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's campaign against "vote

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

- ❑ The Supreme Court on Thursday issued an interim order directing the Election Commission of India (ECI) to **make available online a searchable list of approximately 65 lakh voter names** omitted from the draft electoral roll for Bihar, along with reasons for deletion, such as death, migration, and duplication.
- ❑ The interim order pushes for greater transparency in the ongoing **Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar**, and partially addresses the contentious issue of including Aadhaar as a valid proof of identity and residence in the process.

Challenge to SIR

- ❑ With the state set to head to polls in November, the ECI announced the Bihar SIR late in June.
- ❑ It said that demographic changes in the last 20 years meant that current electoral rolls contained many “repeated entries”, and “the situation [warranted] an intensive verification drive to verify each person before enrolment as an elector”.
- ❑ Soon after this announcement, multiple petitioners challenged the SIR on both substantive and procedural grounds.
- ❑ The substantive grounds included questions on the ECI’s powers to conduct such an exercise.
- ❑ However, in oral observations, the SC has indicated that ECI has the power to conduct such an exercise. This can also be inferred from the fact that the SC has allowed the SIR to continue.

Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has initiated a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar in the run-up to the state assembly elections.

Purpose: To ensure an accurate and inclusive voters’ list by enrolling all eligible citizens and removing ineligible entries such as duplicates, deceased persons, and non-citizens.

Timeline: The revision process commenced on June 25, 2025, with the final electoral roll scheduled for publication on September 30, 2025.

Historical Context: While summary revisions are conducted annually, intensive revisions are rare and involve preparing the electoral roll afresh. Such exercises were carried out in select years between 1952 and 2004, making Bihar’s exercise a significant administrative undertaking.

SC's interim order

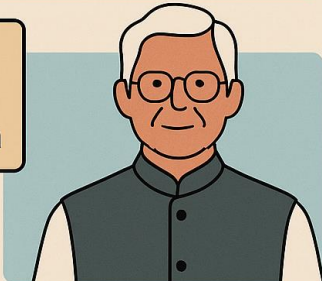
- ❑ The ECI had, in its affidavit, told the SC that **it was not required by law to publish a separate list of electors** removed from the draft electoral rolls or to provide reasons for their non-inclusion.
- ❑ This was in opposition to a plea by the **Association for Democratic Reforms** seeking the release of names and details of the 65 lakh electors who did not make it to the draft published on August 1.
- ❑ The ECI, in court, cited apprehensions that **political parties might aggregate the data** and that the publication could be a violation of the fundamental right to privacy.
- ❑ The SC has, however, pushed back on this argument, **underlining a citizen's fundamental right to know** why he or she has been deleted from the voter list.
- ❑ The court has directed the ECI to publish lists in which one can search by entering the **EPIC number** whether a voter has been deleted, and the reasons for such deletion.
- ❑ This essentially enables individuals and political parties to check if a voter from the constituency has been removed from the rolls, and whether this exclusion is justified.

Recourse after deletion

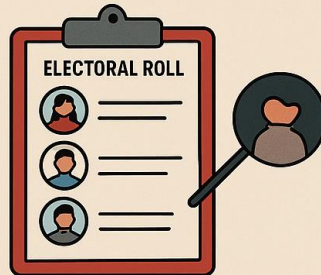
- ❑ The ECI had said that those whose names have not been included in the draft roll can submit Form 6, the ECI's form for registration of new electors, by September 1.
- ❑ Incidentally, **Form 6** allows Aadhaar, both as proof of identity and residence for enrolment.
- ❑ The Electoral Registration Officer verifies the information submitted in Form 6, and enrolls a new voter.
- ❑ In its interim order, the SC directed that “aggrieved persons may submit their claims along with a copy of their **Aadhaar Card**”.

SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION OF ELECTORAL ROLLS


A thorough revision of the electoral roll conducted by Election Commission of India




WHAT IS THE ELECTORAL ROLL?



WHY CONDUCT A SPECIAL REVISION?



- Detect and remove duplicate entries
- Ensure only genuine voters are enrolled



The Summit in Alaska

The summit in Alaska

What do Trump, Putin, and Zelenskyy want from the meeting? What are the stakes for India, and why is New Delhi hoping that the US President comes out feeling good with a 'win' in his mind?

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

UNITED STATES President Donald Trump will meet Russia's President Vladimir Putin on Friday in an attempt to find a way to end the war in Ukraine.

At a time when Europe perceives an existential threat from Russia and the continent's ties with the US are being tested, and when Ukraine's future is at stake, neither the Europeans nor the Ukrainians will be present.

In that sense, the Trump-Putin summit in Anchorage, Alaska, is reminiscent of Yalta 1945, when the leaders of the US, UK, and the Soviet Union met to decide the future of post-war Europe without Charles de Gaulle of France at the table.

The meeting and venue

This will be the first in-person meeting between the leaders of the US and Russia since June 2021, when Putin met then President Joe Biden in Geneva. The meeting did not go well, and Russia invaded Ukraine eight months later.

Putin will be the first Russian leader to visit Alaska, which was sold to the US in 1867 for \$7.2 million. He last visited the US in 2015 to attend events at the United Nations.

The meeting at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson will be Putin's first with Trump after he returned to the White House this January. The two leaders met in person on six occasions during Trump's first term (2017-21), the last meeting being the one on June 28, 2019 at the G20 leaders' summit in Osaka, Japan.

What Trump desires

Trump had famously promised to end the war in 24 hours. Within a month of his inauguration, the President spoke with Putin — with whom he had claimed to have a good relationship for years — over the phone for 90 minutes.

On February 18, senior American and Russian officials met in Riyadh — the first in-person contact between Washington DC and Moscow since the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Ten days later, Trump and Vice President J D Vance berated Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in front of press cameras at the White House. At this time, Putin was seen to have a clear advantage.

But in April, following negotiations led by Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz, and



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy (left) and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz at a video meeting of European leaders with Trump on Wednesday.

France's President Emmanuel Macron, Trump had a "very productive" meeting with Zelenskyy at the Varian. He then posted on social media that "there was no reason for Putin to be shooting missiles into civilian areas".

In July, Trump told the BBC in an interview that he was "disappointed in" Putin, even though he was not yet "done with him". Hours earlier, Trump had announced plans to send weapons to Ukraine, and had warned of strong tariffs action against Russia if there was no ceasefire deal in 50 days.

The President subsequently moved up this timeline to 10 days, citing his disappointment with Putin. He complained that his "nice" and "respectful" conversations were followed by Russian missile attacks on civilians.

On August 7, the day before the deadline, Trump said the ball was in Putin's court — "it's gonna be up to him. Very disappointed."

This week, Trump sought to downplay expectations from the Alaska summit. "This is really a feel-out meeting," he said, predicting he would know "probably in the first two minutes" whether a deal would be possible.

But on Wednesday, after a virtual conference with Zelenskyy and European leaders which he rated as "a 10" and "very friendly", Trump threatened "severe consequences" if Putin did not agree to a deal.

lasting peace that both sides will honour.

"We support what President Trump wanted — a ceasefire, and then sit down at the negotiating table and talk about everything else," Zelenskyy told reporters this week.

The other goal is NATO membership, and Russia, Zelenskyy has said, "cannot have any right of veto on this matter". Ukraine wants continued Western military assistance to strengthen and modernise its armed forces.

Ukraine has also insisted that it will not give up any regions that are currently occupied by Russian forces.

The view from New Delhi

As Trump seeks to pile pressure on Russia, he has squeezed India with a 25% "penalty" for buying Russian oil, in addition to 25% tariffs on Indian exports to the US.

For Trump, India is the easiest target — the US has limited leverage with China, which buys the most energy from Russia.

NATO chief Mark Rutte had earlier warned India, China, and Brazil that they could face severe economic penalties if they continued to do business with Russia. India and Brazil face 50% US tariffs, the highest in the world.

India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval met with Putin in the Kremlin last week, and the next day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with the Russian President. Three days later, Modi called up Zelenskyy.

The outcome of the Alaska summit is of much consequence for India. New Delhi hopes that if Trump comes out feeling good with a "win" in his mind, it could lead to a rethink of the 25% penalty.

Hours after Trump announced the meeting with Putin, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, "India welcomes the understanding reached between the United States and the Russian Federation".

"This meeting holds the promise of bringing to an end the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and opening up the prospects for peace. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said on several occasions, 'this is not an era of war'." MEA spokesperson Randeep Jaiswal said.

Besides hoping for the removal of the penalty for buying Russian oil, India would be keen to participate in the rebuilding of Ukraine, as the post-conflict future emerges.

India will also be looking at how Beijing moves on the peace negotiations, and whether the US — after bringing the Ukraine war to an end — is able to refocus on the Indo-Pacific strategy to counter China.

- ❑ United States President Donald Trump will meet Russia's President Vladimir Putin on Friday (August 15) in an attempt to find a way to end the war in Ukraine.
- ❑ At a time when Europe perceives an existential threat from Russia and the continent's ties with the US are being tested, and when Ukraine's future is at stake, neither the Europeans nor the Ukrainians will be present.

What Trump desires

- ❑ Trump had famously promised to end the war in 24 hours. Within a month of his inauguration, the President spoke with Putin — with whom he had claimed to have a good relationship for years — over the phone for 90 minutes.

The demands of Putin

- ❑ For Putin, the meeting will be a victory from the moment he lands in Alaska.
- ❑ He has been declared an outcast by the West, and he will be on American soil at a time he has charges of war crimes against him.
- ❑ Recognition from the **leader of the world's most powerful country** is proof that efforts to isolate him have failed.
- ❑ **Putin has aimed high** — asking for not just all the Ukrainian territories that Russia currently occupies and a ban on Ukraine's entry into NATO, but also the removal of Zelenskyy.
- ❑ He will also be looking at an **easing of the sanctions on Russia**, which have affected its technology and defence industries.
- ❑ **Russia's budget deficit** is increasing, and its income from oil and gas exports is under pressure.

Zelenskyy: back to the wall

- ❑ Zelenskyy's **immediate objective is a ceasefire**, a stop to the attacks on Ukrainian cities and the killings of Ukrainians.
- ❑ But Kyiv has also stressed that for any talks to be even remotely substantive, the next stage must be about a **durable peace that both sides will honour**.
- ❑ The other goal is NATO membership, and Russia, "cannot have any right of veto on this matter".
- ❑ Ukraine wants continued Western military assistance to strengthen and modernise its armed forces.
- ❑ Ukraine has also insisted that it will not give up any regions that are currently occupied by Russian forces.



The view from New Delhi

- ❑ As Trump seeks to pile pressure on Russia, he has squeezed India with a 25% “penalty” for buying Russian oil, in addition to 25% tariffs on Indian exports to the US.
- ❑ For Trump, India is the easiest target — the US has limited leverage with China, which buys the most energy from Russia.
- ❑ India and Brazil face 50% US tariffs, the highest in the world.
- ❑ India’s National Security Advisor Ajit Doval met with Putin in the Kremlin last week, and the next day, Prime Minister [Narendra Modi](#) spoke with the Russian President. Three days later, Modi called up Zelenskyy.
- ❑ The outcome of the Alaska summit is of much consequence for India. New [Delhi](#) hopes that if Trump comes out feeling good with a “win” in his mind, it could lead to a rethink of the 25% penalty.
- ❑ Hours after Trump announced the meeting with Putin, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, “India welcomes the understanding reached between the United States and the Russian Federation”.
- ❑ Besides hoping for the removal of the penalty for buying Russian oil, India would be keen to participate in the rebuilding of Ukraine, as the post-conflict future emerges.

India's First Digitally Literate State

‘Acquainted elderly with smartphones’: Kerala to become India’s ‘first’ digitally-literate state

SHAJU PHILIP

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
AUGUST 14

SOCIAL MEDIA, search engines, and WhatsApp — that’s what the Kerala government used to acquaint its elderly with smartphones. On August 21, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will declare Kerala as India’s first digitally-literate state, all thanks to an innovative campaign to familiarise its population with digital technology.

Spearheaded by the state’s local self-government department, the ‘Digi Keralam-complete digital literary programme’ had one aim — taking the digital revolution to all sections of people, regardless of their age, and help them avail its e-services. The massive programme, launched in 2023, did this by first surveying 83 lakh households to identify the “digitally illiterate” and eventually, holding training modules.

According to officials at the LSGD, 2.57 lakh trained volunteers — including MGNREGA supervisors, the National Service Scheme, the National Cadet Corps



Initiative taken by the local self-government department — ‘Digi Keralam-complete digital literary programme’. *Express*

and the Nehru Yuva Kendra — conducted a survey covering 1.50 crore people in 83 lakh families. This helped them shortlist 21 lakh digitally illiterate people, including several elderly people over 90.

Of this group of identified individuals, 99.98% — including 15,223 people over 90 — have successfully completed the programme, officials said. “We had motivated the aged persons to overcome their hesitancy to use a smartphone,” Sajina Sathar, the project’s assistant director, said. “We told them they could make

video calls (to their children and relatives), watch their favourite programmes and TV serials and hear music. That’s how we had evoked an interest in them”.

The volunteers with smart phones went to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme work sites and trained them during lunch break. Participants who did not have smartphones were trained on the phones of volunteers. In most cases, training was held at places where the participants gathered or worked

in clusters. In the case of elderly participants, volunteers went to the homes.

The training programme had three modules with 15 activities — from sessions on photos and videos, and making social media profiles to sending WhatsApp texts or making the simplest Google Search. Participants were also trained in using the state’s platforms for online applications and booking essential services such as gas to help them retrieve OPTs. A significant part of the campaign was the state government’s ‘Satyameva Jayate’ campaign against fake news.

After training, the targeted group were evaluated by another set of volunteers to ensure that their learning was complete. Those who did poorly continued to get training until they met the set parameters. “The evaluation was made mandatory only for people up to the age of 65. But the majority of the people above the age of 65 have also passed the evaluation exercise,” Sajina said.

The Digi Pullampara covered 3,900 “digitally illiterate” people, who were shortlisted after a survey of 22,100 people.

- ❑ On August 21, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will declare Kerala as **India’s first digitally-literate state**, all thanks to an innovative campaign to familiarise its population with digital technology.

- ❑ Spearheaded by the state's local self-government department, the 'Digi Keralam-complete digital literary programme' had one aim — taking the digital revolution to all sections of people, regardless of their age, and help them avail its e-services.
- ❑ The massive programme, launched in 2023, did this by first surveying 83 lakh households to identify the "digitally illiterate" and eventually, holding training modules.
- ❑ According to officials at the LSGD, 2.57 lakh trained volunteers – including MGNREGA supervisors, the National Service Scheme, the National Cadet Corps and the Nehru Yuva Kendra – conducted a survey covering 1.50 crore people in 83 lakh families.
- ❑ This helped them shortlist 21 lakh digitally illiterate people, including several elderly people over 90.

The Pullampara Panchayat In Kerala Has Become The First "Fully Digital Literate Panchayat" In India



The Full Digital Literacy Was Achieved By Pullampara Panchayat's "DigiPullampara" Project, Under Which Some 3,300 Residents Between The 14-65 Age Group Were Given Digital Education.

Samudrayaan Mission

Ahead of Samudrayaan, two aquanauts undertake deep dives into the Atlantic

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

DAYS AFTER Shubhanshu Shukla's journey to the International Space Station (ISS), two Indian aquanauts have travelled in another direction — thousands of metres into the deep sea — as part of the preparations for the country's 2027 deep sea mission, Samudrayaan.



Cdr (Retd) Jatinder Pal Singh (far left), R Ramesh (far right) dived into the Atlantic from French vessel *Nautilus*. Source: NIOT

On August 4 and 5, in two separate dives, Cdr (Retd) Jatinder Pal Singh and R Ramesh, scientists at the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), dived 5,002 metres and 4,025 metres respectively into the Atlantic Ocean from on-board the French vessel *Nautilus*. During the missions, an Indian flag was unfurled alongside a French one.

Until now, most submarine dives involving Indians were limited to 500 metres, with the previous record — 670 metres — held by Cdr Singh, a former Naval
CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

- ❑ In a first for the country, two Indian aquanauts have taken dives to depths of nearly 4,000 metres and 5,000 metres in the Atlantic Ocean on board the French submersible **Nautilus** — the deepest an Indian has ever gone underwater — as part of preparations for **Samudrayaan, India's first manned deep-sea mission** that aims to send three aquanauts to 6,000 metres by 2027 in a made-in-India titanium submersible.

- ❑ Like the **Axiom-4 mission's role** in preparing astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla for Gaganyaan, the Nautille dives gave India's deep-sea crew end-to-end operational training crucial for Samudrayaan — from pre-dive preparations and vessel piloting to manipulator arm operations, tracking, and retrieval.
- ❑ Samudrayaan is part of the country's **Deep Ocean Mission**, which will, for the first time, take a three-member crew **6,000 metres below the surface in the indigenously developed Matsya6000** submersible.
- ❑ The mission aims to develop technologies to access and transport tonnes of valuable minerals from the ocean-bed in an environmentally safe manner.
- ❑ Equipped with scientific sensors and tools, **Matsya6000 can operate for 12 hours**, extendable to 96 in emergencies.
- ❑ Only five countries — **the USA, Russia, China, France, and Japan** — have so far carried out successful crewed deep-ocean missions; India is set to join this exclusive club.

DEEP OCEAN MISSION

- Deep Sea Mining through 'Underwater Vehicles' and 'Underwater Robotics'
- Asserting exclusive rights to explore polymetallic nodules from seabed **over 75,000 sq km of areas in international water**
- Estimated polymetallic nodules resource potential: **380 million tonnes (MT)**

- Development of ocean climate change advisory services
- Technology for sustainable utilisation of marine bio-resources

THESE POLYMETALLIC NODULES CONTAIN

Manganese **92.6 MT**

Nickel **4.7**

Copper **4.3**

Cobalt **1**

(*figures are rounded off)

- Deep ocean survey and exploration
- Energy from the ocean and offshore-based desalination
- Krill fishery from southern ocean

MATSYA 6000

India's 1st Manned Deep Ocean Mission



Sending **3 humans** to **6-km ocean depth** in a **self-propelled submersible**



Exploring **deep sea resources & biodiversity assessment**



Endurance of **12 hours** under normal operation and **96 hours** in case of **emergency**





Thank you

Address

**B-47, Main Road Shivalik Enclave, Block-
B, Shivalik Colony, Malviya Nagar, New
Delhi-110017**

Phone Number +91 8178833167