

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2025-26

STRENGTHENING **DEMOCRACY**.
SECURING THE FUTURE.



IMPACT OF MEDIA ON
ELECTIONS & GOVERNANCE



DEMOCRACY

प्रजा ही प्रभु है!

PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY
& ACCOUNTABILITY



CURB MISUSE OF
MONEY POWER
IN ELECTIONS



DECRIMINALISATION
OF POLITICS



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ADR Activities: FY 2025-26

History of ADR

The inception of the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) can be traced back to 1999 when a group of Professors from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad, anguished by the alarming rise of criminality in the Indian political system, filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in Delhi High Court requesting for the disclosure of the criminal, financial and educational background details of the candidates contesting elections. Based on this, the Supreme Court in 2002, and subsequently in 2003, made it mandatory for all candidates contesting elections to disclose criminal, financial, and educational background details prior to the polls by filing a self-sworn affidavit with the Election Commission. In March 2003, ADR was formally registered as an NGO.

Vision

A vibrant Indian democracy built on empowered citizens, free and fair elections, electoral reforms, and accountable political parties.

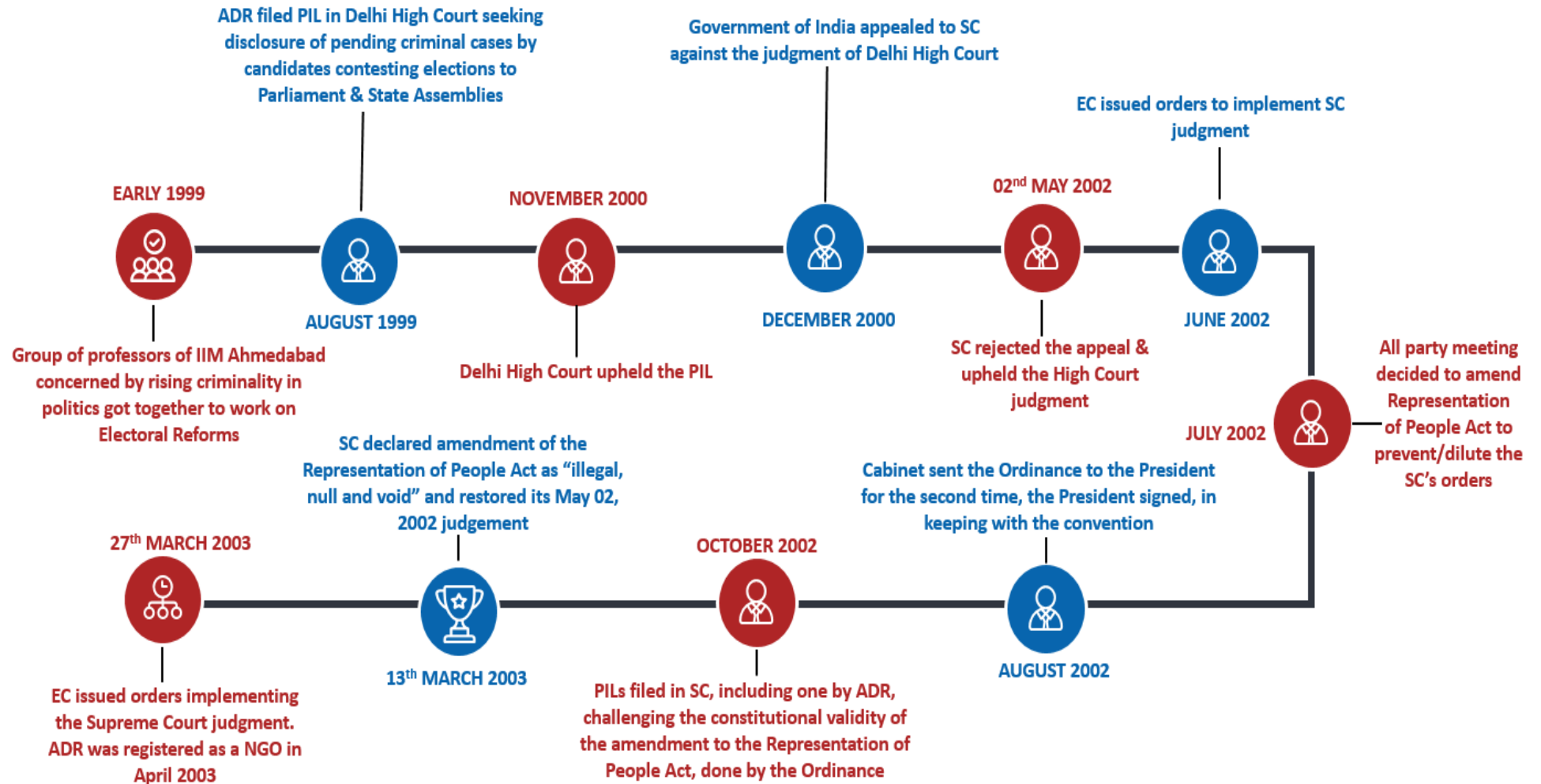
Mission

To improve governance and strengthen democracy by continuous work in the area of Electoral and Political Reforms

Focus Areas

- **Advocating against corruption and criminalisation in politics**
- **Empowerment of the electorate through greater dissemination of information relating to the candidates and the parties, for a better and informed choice**
- **Need for greater accountability of Political Parties**
- **Need for inner-party democracy and transparency in party-functioning**

ADR's Beginning





About Prof. Jagdeep Singh Chhokar

Prof. Jagdeep S. Chhokar, aged 81 years, one of the founding members of the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), passed away at 4 AM on 12th September 2025 in New Delhi, leaving behind an enduring legacy of integrity and courage. A respected academic, civic activist, lawyer, engineer, and conservationist, Prof. Chhokar's life was distinguished by his commitment to strengthening democratic governance and promoting transparency in Indian public life. There was an overwhelming outpouring of grief across the nation on his demise.

To those who knew him, he was more than an advocate for clean politics; he was a generous mentor, an incisive thinker, and a warm friend. He was a fearless and honest lone but the loudest voice in the room. Colleagues, students, and those who worked alongside him remember him as patient yet persistent, principled, and relentlessly committed to public accountability.

Prof. Jagdeep Chhokar's vision reshaped the way India thinks about elections and accountability. His absence leaves a void, but his example will continue to inspire all who strive for a stronger and more vibrant democracy.

All his life, he worked for the upliftment of people, and even in his death, he did the same by donating his body to Lady Hardinge Medical College.

He is deeply missed by his family, his students, his colleagues at ADR, and the many citizens who benefitted from his decades of work. May his efforts continue to bear fruit in the public life of the nation.

His work will continue to inspire the ADR team to work harder towards the realisation of the goals of ADR.

Educational Background:

Grad. Mechanical Engineering (1967)

Grad. Production Engineering (1967)

MBA (1977, University of Delhi)

Ph.D. (1983, Louisiana State University)

LL.B. (2005, Gujarat University)

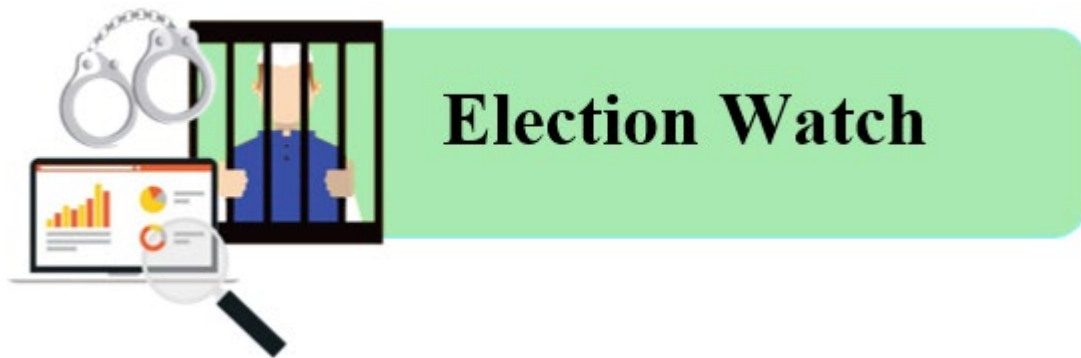
Obtained a certificate in ornithology from the Bombay Natural History Society in 2001

Professional life apart from ADR:

- Before joining the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, he worked with the Indian Railways as a mechanical engineer and manager for over a decade, and as an International Marketing Manager with a public sector organization for four years.
- He had also taught at Universities in Australia, France, Japan, and the US.
- He was a professor (teacher, trainer, researcher, and advisor) of Management and Organisational Behaviour at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, from 1985 till November 2006, when he retired after reaching the mandatory age of superannuation. He was Dean (2001-02) and Director In-charge (July-Sep 2002) at IIMA.
- He was also the founding Chairperson of Aajeevika Bureau, a civil society organisation that works on issues pertaining to internal migration in India.
- He was the lead editor of a volume titled Culture and leadership across the world: The GLOBE Book of in-depth studies of 25 societies, brought out by the Global Leadership and Organizational Behavior Effectiveness (GLOBE) Research Programme, and published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Mahwah, N.J. (now Routledge/Psychology Press), in 2007.

Links:

- Tributes to him:
https://adrindia.org/sites/default/files/Tribute_Prof_Chhokar%20%281%29.pdf
- Memorial Service Video: https://www.youtube.com/live/Vq4XTdqp0_Y
- Articles authored by him: <https://blog.adrindia.org/author/jchhokar/>
- Papers by him on other subjects: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Jagdeep-Chhokar>



About: The first Election Watch - the flagship programme of ADR- was conducted in 2002 for the Gujarat Assembly Elections, whereby detailed analysis of the backgrounds of candidates contesting elections was provided to help the electorate make an informed choice during polls. Since then, ADR has conducted Election Watches for almost all States, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha elections. State Election Watch chapters combined are called the National Election Watch (NEW) and along with ADR, their aim is to reach maximum voters.

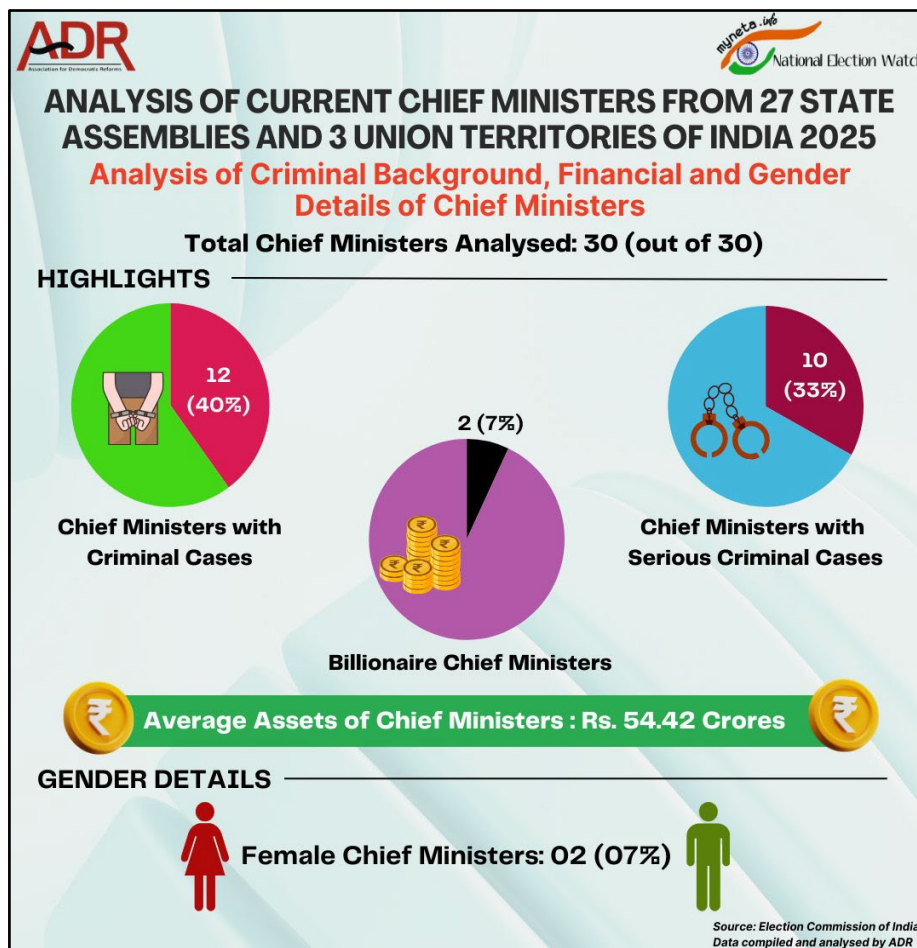
During the financial year 2025–2026, ADR conducted **Election Watch** for the following elections:

- **Rajya Sabha Elections**
- **Bihar State Assembly Election 2025**
- **Bye-elections**
- **Local Body Elections**
- **Legislative Council Elections**

The following reports were released by Election Watch during the financial year 2025–2026:

I. Reports Analysing the Details of Candidates, Winners and Ministers:

1. Analysis of Sitting Women MPs/MLAs of India 2025- **30th April 2025**
2. Analysis of Current Chief Ministers from 27 State Assemblies and 3 Union Territories of India 2025- **22nd August 2025**



3. Analysis of Current Ministers from 27 States Assemblies, 3 Union Territories and the Union Council of Ministers 2025- **04th September 2025**
4. Analysis of Criminal Background, Financial, Education, Gender and other details of Bihar Sitting MLAs- **13th October 2025**
5. Analysis of Criminal Background, Financial, Education, Gender and other details of New Ministers in the Gujarat Assembly 2025 Post Cabinet Reconstitution on 17th October 2025 - **22nd October 2025**
6. Bihar Assembly Elections 2025 Phase I: Analysis of Criminal Background, Financial, Education, Gender and other Details of Candidates- **28th October 2025**
7. Bihar Assembly Elections 2025 Phase II: Analysis of Criminal Background, Financial, Education, Gender and other Details of Candidates- **04th November 2025**

8. Bihar Assembly Elections 2025: Consolidated Analysis of Criminal Background, Financial, Education, Gender and other details of Candidates - Phase 1 and 2- **05th November 2025**
9. Bihar Assembly Election 2025: Analysis of Criminal Background, Financial, Education, Gender and other details of Winning Candidates - **15th November 2025**
10. Analysis of Criminal Background, Financial, Education, Gender and other details of Ministers in the Bihar Assembly 2025- **21st November 2025**
11. Analysis of Format C7 - Publication of Reasons Given for Selection of Candidates with Criminal Cases by Political Parties in the Bihar Assembly Elections, 2025- **05th December 2025**



ADR
Association for Democratic Reforms



mineta.info
Bihar Election Watch

Bihar Assembly Elections, 2025

Analysis of Format C7 submitted by Political Parties

For 176 (29%) candidates with criminal background, no reasons for their selection have been provided by political parties.

Political Parties Analyzed

1. Jan Suraj Party
2. Rashtriya Janata Dal
3. Bharatiya Janata Party
4. Indian National Congress
5. Janata Dal (United)
6. Bahujan Samaj Party
7. Aam Aadmi Party
8. All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen
9. Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) Liberation
10. Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas)
11. Communist Party of India
12. Communist Party of India (Marxist) and
- Other 58 Political Parties

2616 Candidates Analyzed

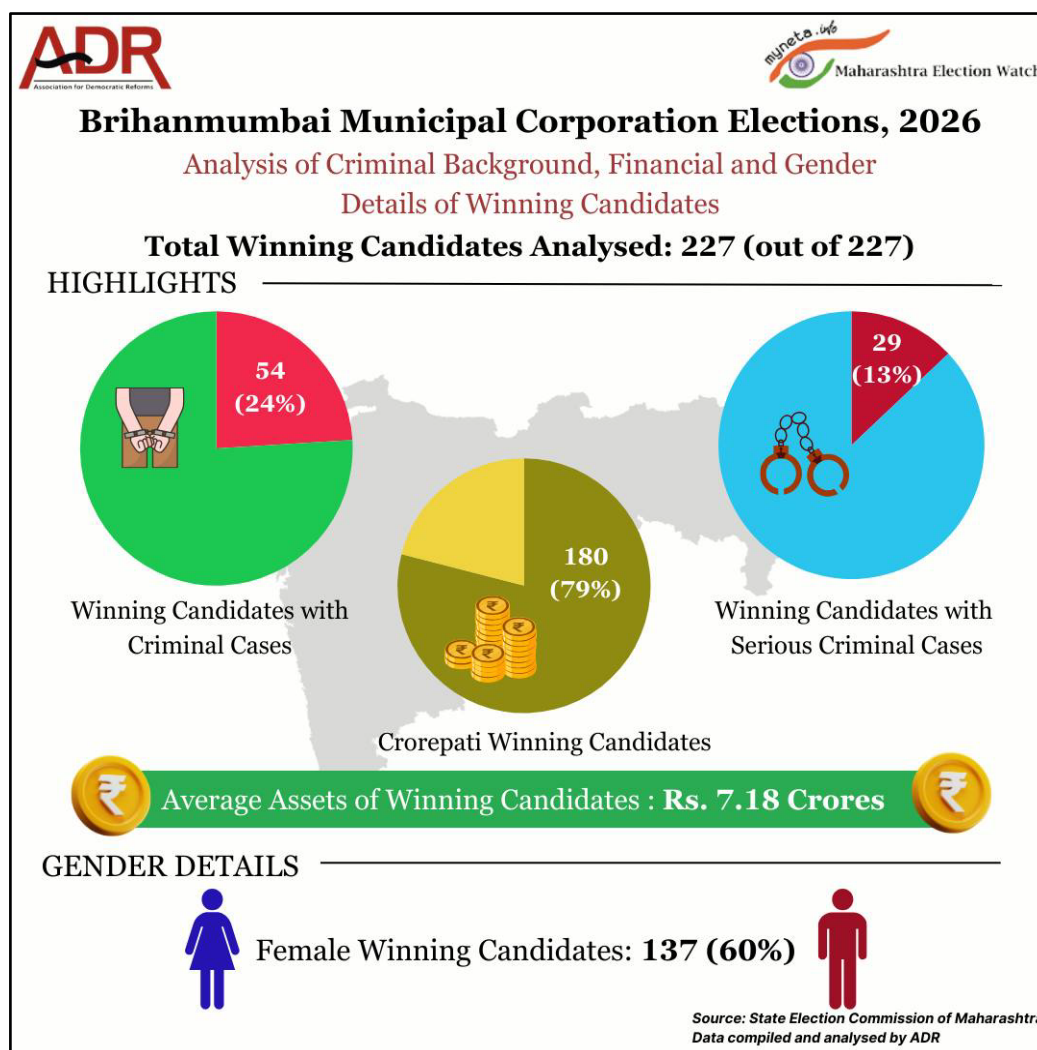
612 have Declared Criminal cases

502 have Declared Serious Criminal cases

Source: Election Commission of India/
Political parties websites
Data compiled and analysed by ADR

12. Analysis of Assets Comparison of Re-Elected MPs Between 2014 to 2024 Lok Sabha Elections- **07th January 2026**

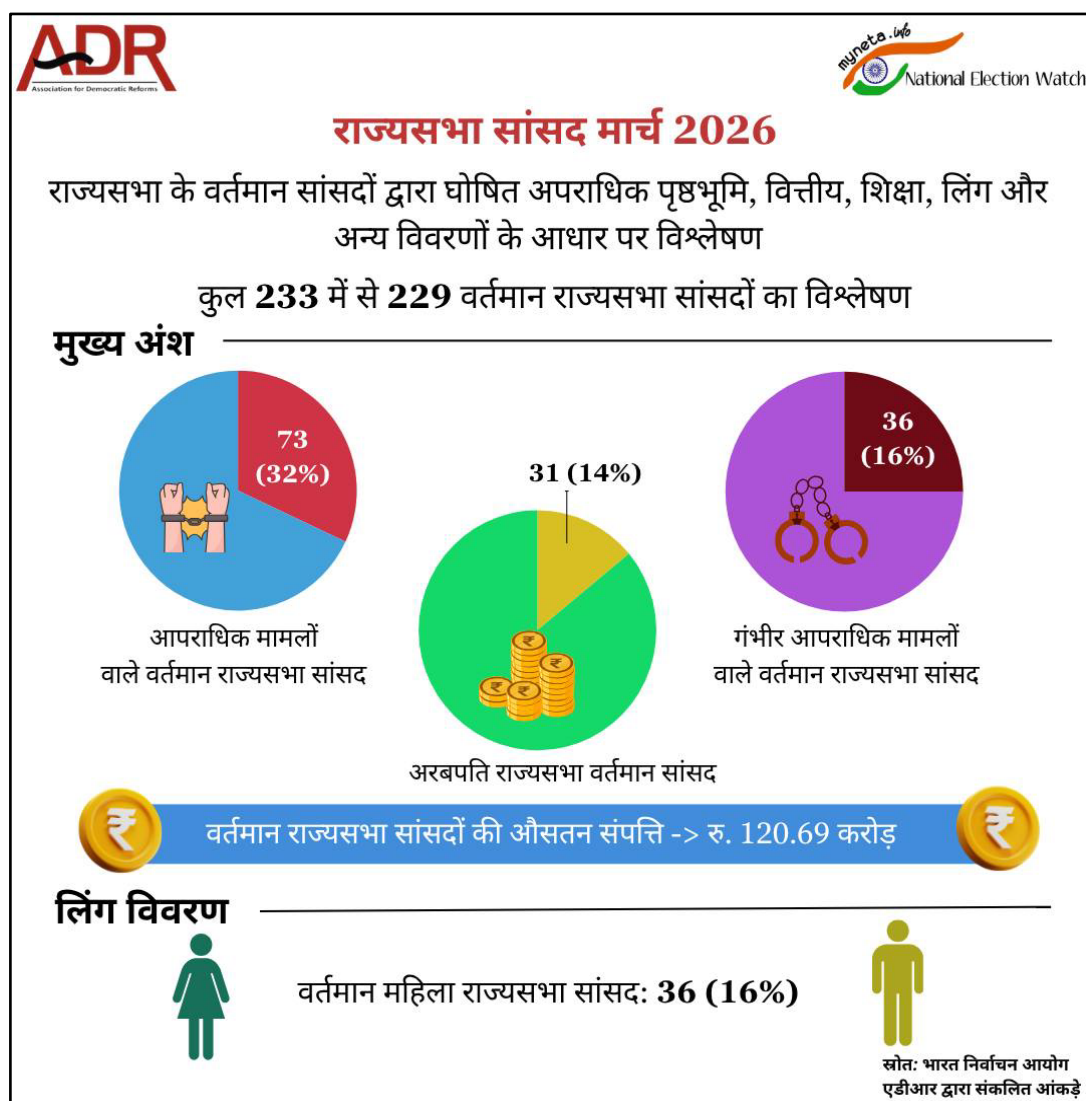
13. Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation Elections 2026: Analysis of Criminal Background, Financial, Education, Gender and other Details of Winning Candidates- **16th February 2026**



14. West Bengal Assembly Election 2021: Analysis of Criminal Background, Financial, Education, Gender and other details of Sitting MLAs- **16th March 2026**

15. Kerala Assembly Election 2021: Analysis of Criminal Background, Financial, Education, Gender and other details of Sitting MLAs- **18th March 2026**

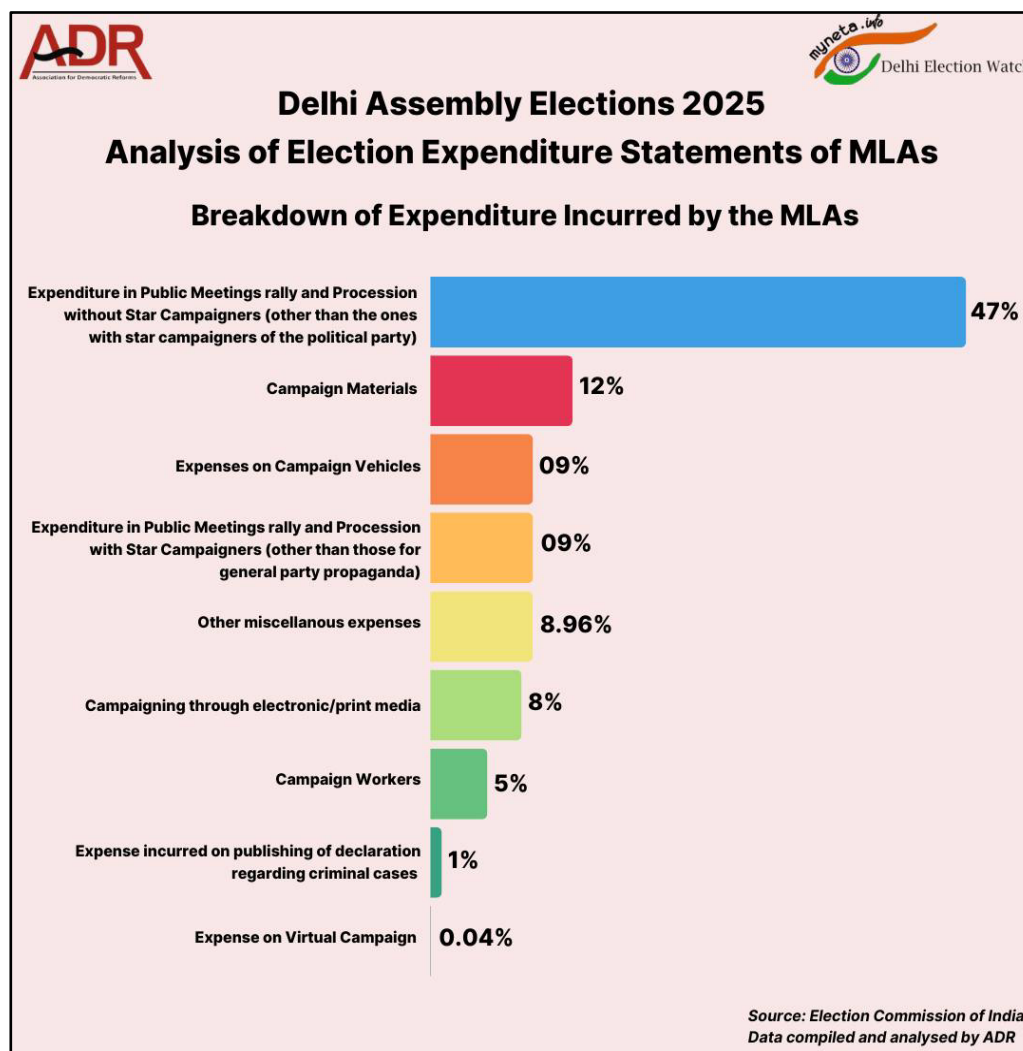
16. Analysis of Criminal Background, Financial, Education, Gender and other details of Sitting Rajya Sabha MPs March 2026- **19th March 2026**



17. Tamil Nadu Assembly Election 2021: Analysis of Criminal Background, Financial, Education, Gender and other details of Sitting MLAs- **20th March 2026**
18. Puducherry Assembly Elections 2026: Analysis of Criminal Background, Financial, Education, Gender and other Details of Candidates- **30th March 2026**
19. Assam Assembly Elections 2026: Analysis of Criminal Background, Financial, Education, Gender and other Details of Candidates- **31st March 2026**

II. Reports analysing the election expenditure, vote share of winners and MLAs performance

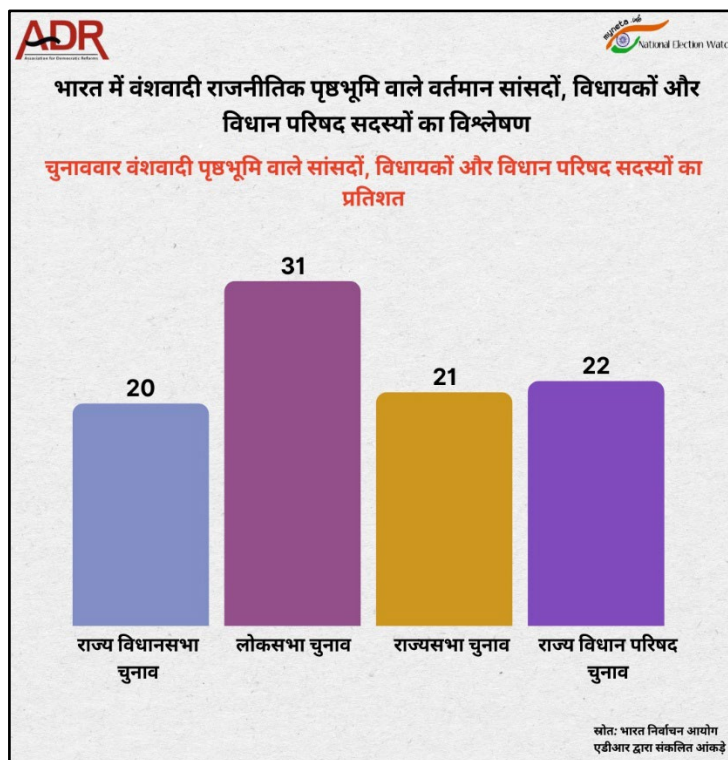
1. Analysis of Election Expenditure statements of MLAs from the Delhi Assembly Elections 2025- **8th May 2025**



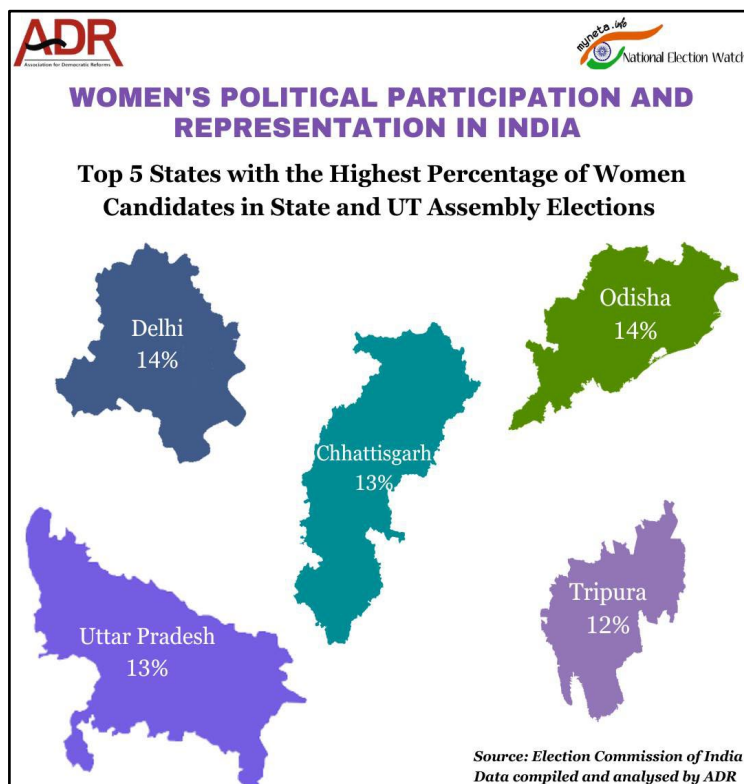
2. 17th Legislative Assembly of Bihar: Analysis of Performance of MLAs (2020 - 2025)- **17th October 2025**
3. Analysis of Vote Share, Margin of Victory and Representativeness of Winners in Bihar Assembly Elections 2025- **27th November 2025**
4. Analysis of Election Expenditure statements of MLAs from the Bihar Assembly Elections 2025- **03rd February 2026**

III. New Reports

1. Analysis of Sitting MPs, MLAs and MLCs in India with Dynastic Political Backgrounds-
12th September 2025



2. Women's Political Participation and Representation in India - 08th March 2026



Elections Covered during FY 2025-2026						
S. No.	Election Name	Election Year	State Name	Number of Seats	Date of Poll	Candidates Contesting
1	Legislative Council	2025	Telangana	1	23 Apr'25	1
2	Legislative Council	2025	Andhra Pradesh	1	09 May'25	1
3	Assembly Bye Elections	2025	Gujarat	2	19 Jun'25	24
4		2025	Kerala	1	19 Jun'25	10
5		2025	Punjab	1	19 Jun'25	14
6		2025	West Bengal	1	19 Jun'25	3
7	Rajya Sabha	2025	Assam	2	19 Jun'25	2
8		2025	Tamil Nadu	6	19 Jun'25	6
9	Rajya Sabha	2025	Punjab	1	24 Oct'25	1
10		2025	Jammu and Kashmir	4	24 Oct'25	4
11	Assembly Elections	2025	Bihar Phase I	121	6 Nov'25	1314
12		2025	Bihar Phase II	122	11 Nov'25	1302
13	Assembly Bye Elections	2025	Jammu and Kashmir	2	11 Nov'25	27
14		2025	Rajasthan	1	11 Nov'25	15
15		2025	Jharkhand	1	11 Nov'25	13
16		2025	Telangana	1	11 Nov'25	58
17		2025	Punjab	1	11 Nov'25	15
18		2025	Mizoram	1	11 Nov'25	5
19		2026	Odisha	1	11 Nov'25	14
20	Rajya Sabha	2026	Maharashtra	7	16 Mar'26	7
21		2026	Odisha	4	16 Mar'26	4
22		2026	Tamil Nadu	6	16 Mar'26	6
23		2026	West Bengal	5	16 Mar'26	5
24		2026	Assam	3	16 Mar'26	3
25		2026	Bihar	5	16 Mar'26	5
26		2026	Chhattisgarh	2	16 Mar'26	2
27		2026	Haryana	2	16 Mar'26	2
28		2026	Himachal Pradesh	1	16 Mar'26	1
29		2026	Telangana	2	16 Mar'26	2
Total				308		2,866

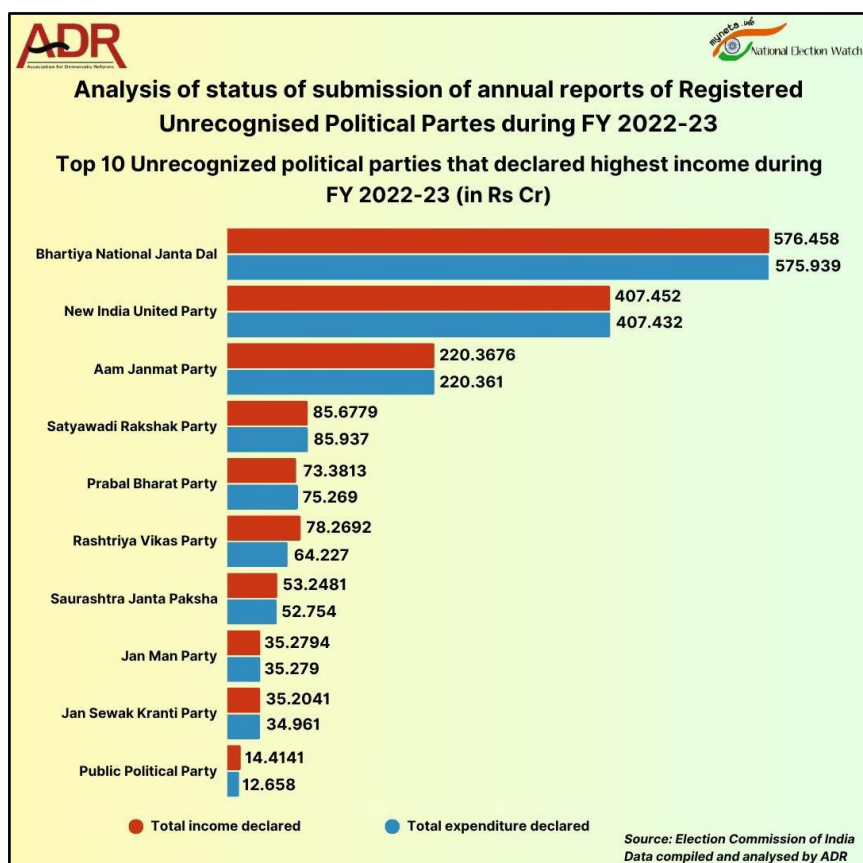
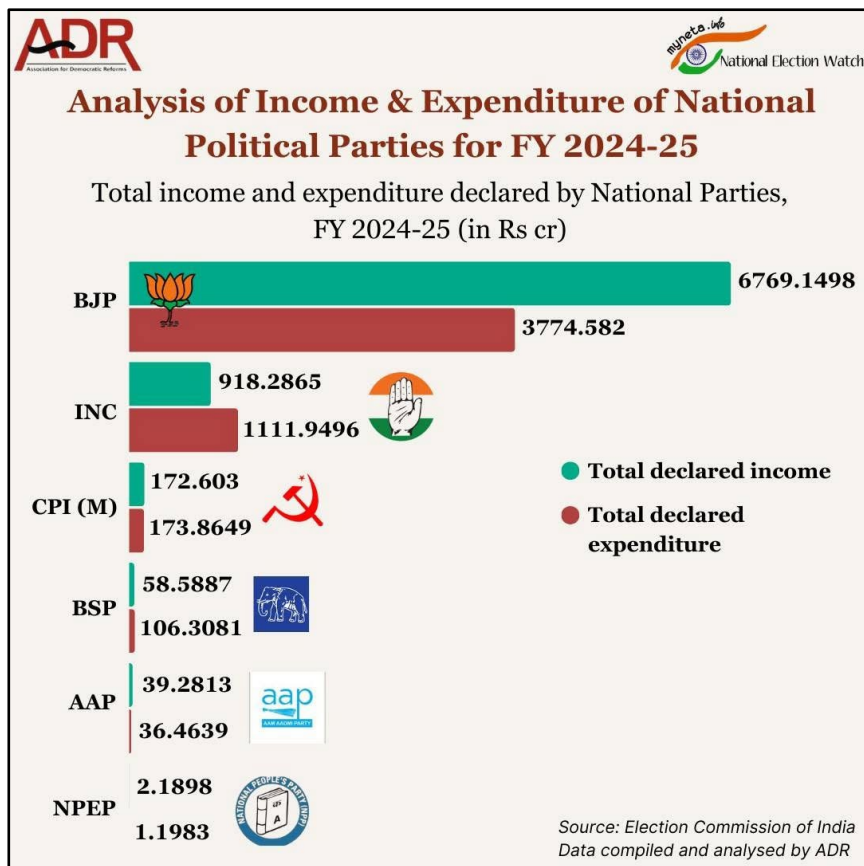


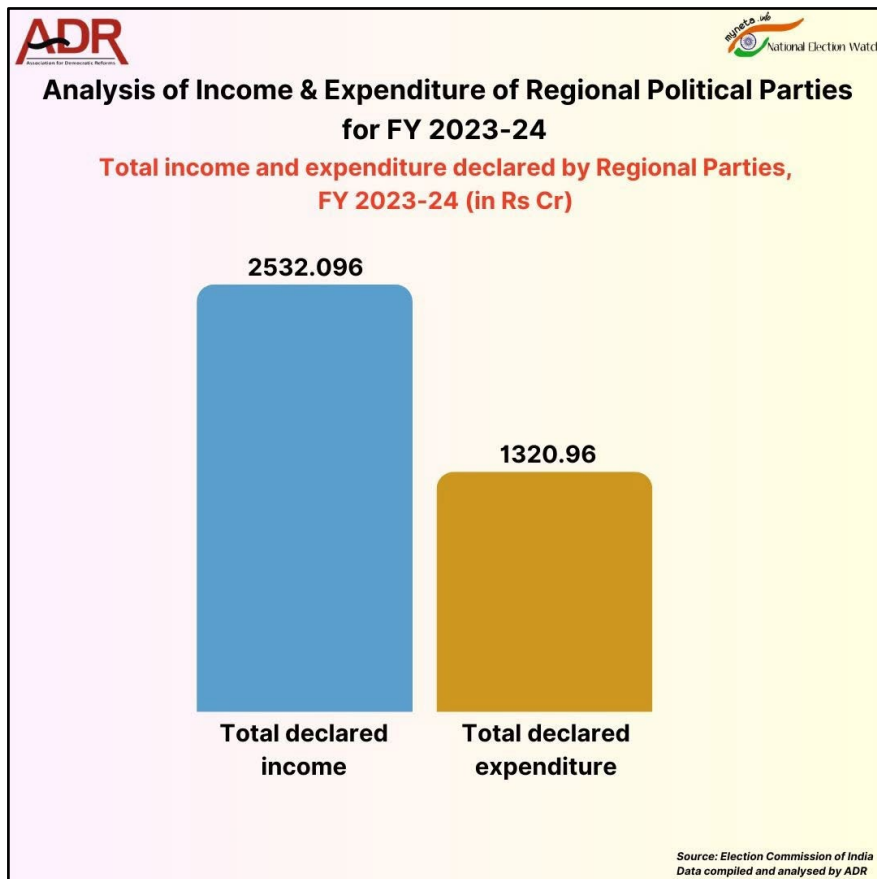
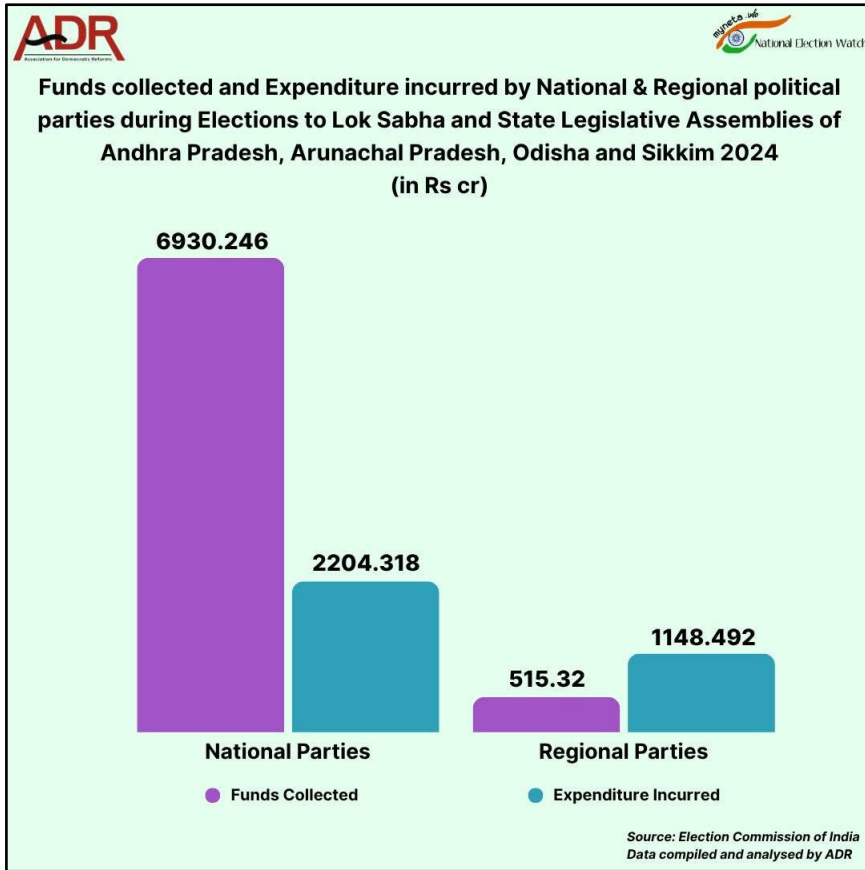
About: As political parties play a crucial role in a democracy, good governance would remain a distant dream without accountability and transparency in the internal functioning and financials of Political Parties. In 2008, ADR started a new program called Political Party Watch (PPW) to thoroughly analyse the Donations Report, Income Tax Returns, and Election Expenditure Reports of Political Parties and disseminate the information to the Public. For the verification of the facts and figures, PPW always supports its reports with scanned copies of Income Tax Returns of various political parties (national, regional, and un-recognised parties) and RTI applications. These reports have revealed that currently, only National Parties and very few Regional Parties file their IT Returns on a regular basis every year.

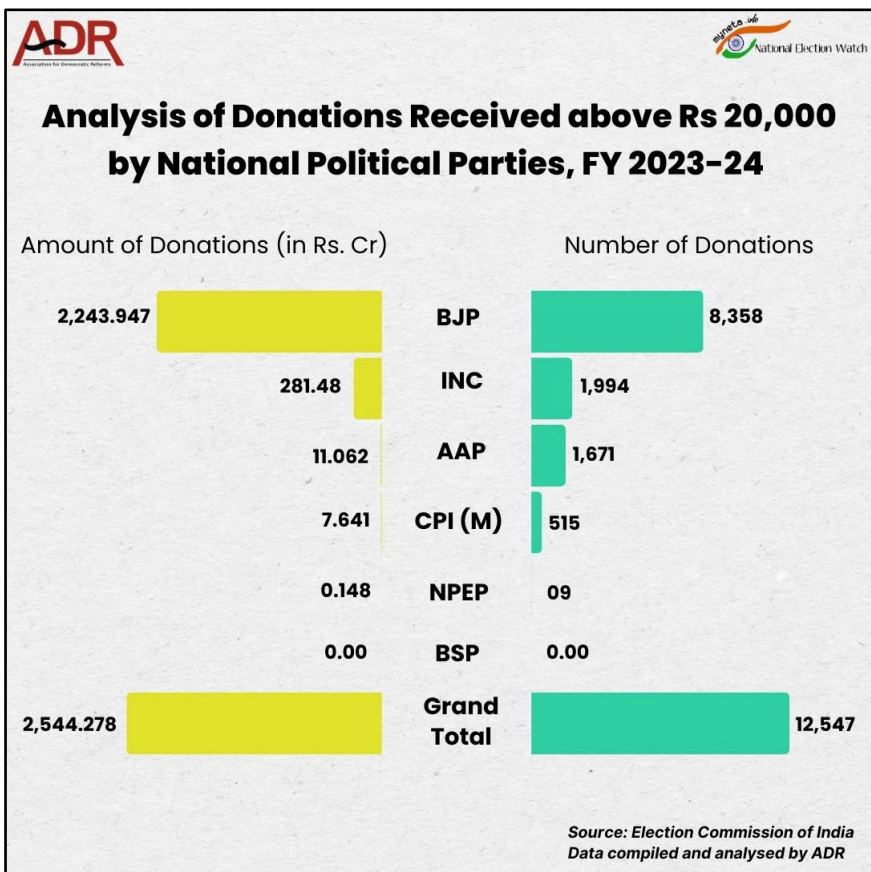
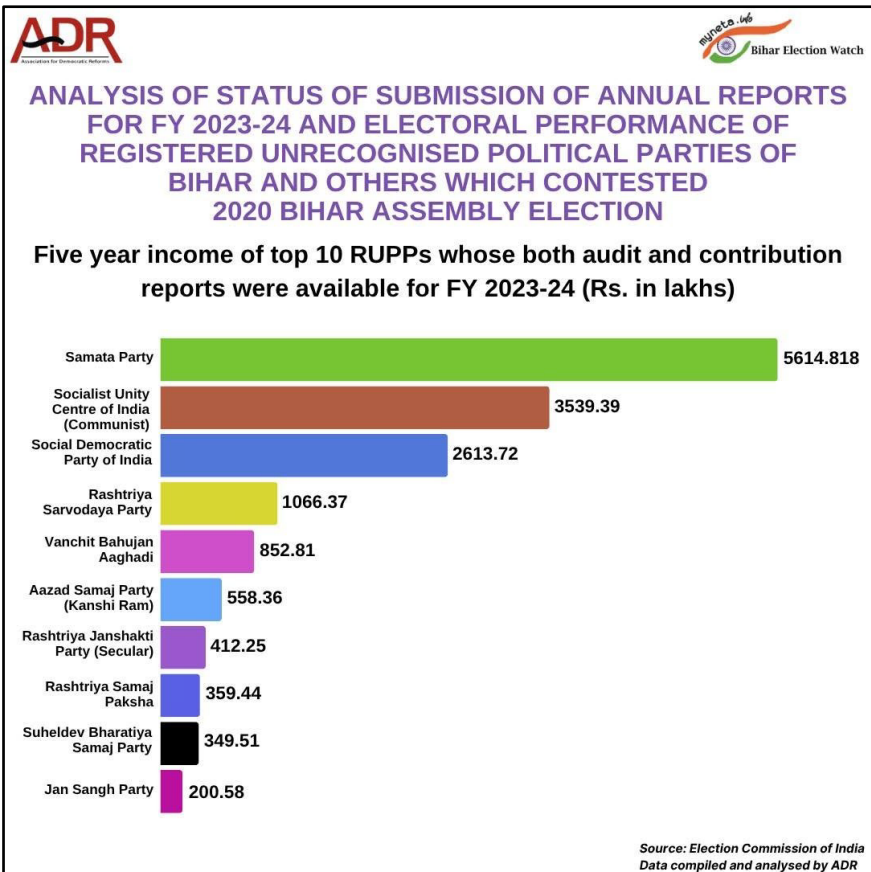
PPW Data Source: Income Tax Returns and the donations details submitted to the IT Department and the Election Commission, respectively, by the political parties themselves.

The following analyses on Political Parties were undertaken during FY 2025-26:

Period covered: April'25 – March'26				
S. No.	Report Type	Report Name	Date of release	Number of Parties Analysed
1	Contribution Report	Analysis of Donations Received above Rs 20,000 by National Political Parties, FY 2024-25	26 Mar'26	6
2	Audit Report	Analysis of Income & Expenditure of National Political Parties for FY 2024-25	03 Mar'26	6
3	Electoral Trusts Reports	Analysis Of Contribution Reports of Electoral Trusts – FY 2024-25	13 Feb'26	22
4	Election Expenditure Analysis Reports	Analysis of Funds Collected and Expenditure Incurred by Political Parties during Delhi Assembly Election, 2025	17 Dec'25	9
5	Election Expenditure Analysis Reports	Analysis of Funds Collected and Expenditure Incurred by Political Parties during Bihar Assembly Election, 2020	21 Nov'25	13
6	Audit Report	Analysis of Status of Submission of Annual Reports for FY 2023-24 and Electoral Performance of Registered Unrecognised Political Parties of Bihar and others which contested 2020 Bihar Assembly Election	07 Nov'25	275
7	Audit Report	Analysis of Income & Expenditure of Regional Political Parties for FY 2023-24	11 Sep'25	40
8	Audit Report	Analysis of status of submission of annual reports of Registered Unrecognised Political Parties during FY 2022-23	18 Jul'25	739
9	Electoral Bonds Analysis Reports	Updated data on party-wise electoral bonds redeemed between 2018 to 2024 and comparison with data compiled from SBI RTI responses	04 Jul'25	21
10	Election Expenditure Analysis Reports	Analysis of Funds Collected and Expenditure Incurred by Political Parties during General Election to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim, 2024	20 Jun'25	32
11	Contribution Report	Analysis of Donations Received above Rs 20,000 by National Political Parties, FY 2023-24	07 Apr'25	6
Total				1,169

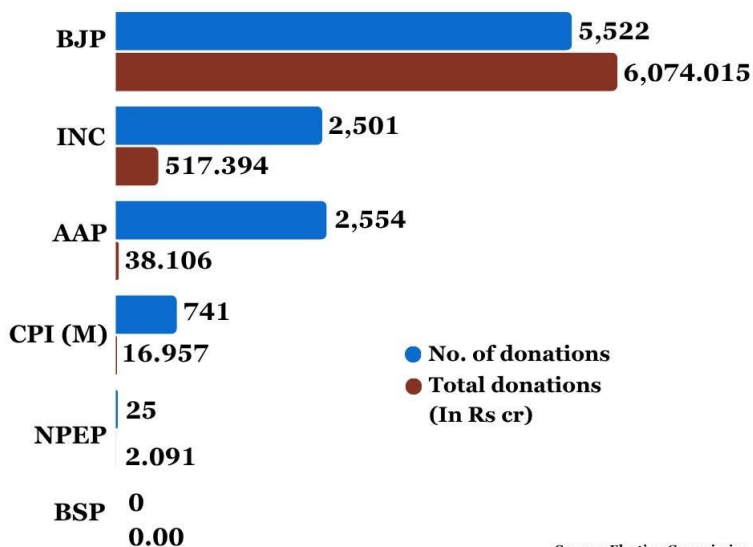






Analysis of Donations Received above Rs 20,000 by National Political Parties, FY 2024-25

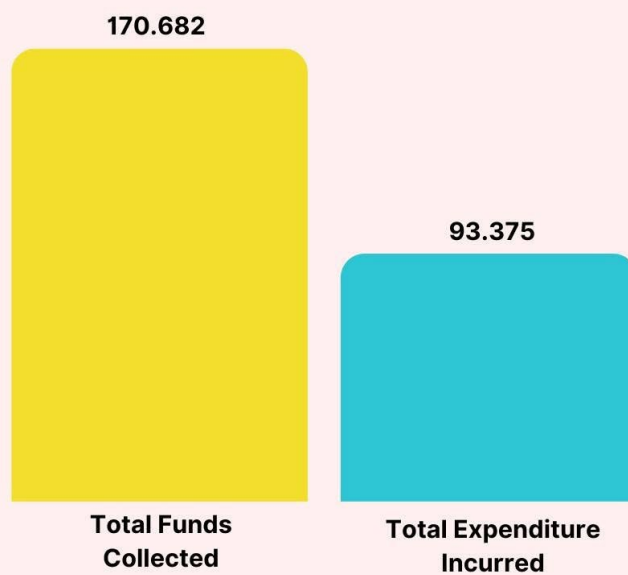
No. and amount of contributions (above Rs 20,000)
declared by National Parties, FY 2024-25 (in Rs cr)



Source: Election Commission of India
Data compiled and analysed by ADR

Delhi Assembly Elections, 2025

Total Funds Collected and Expenditure Incurred by Political
Parties during Delhi Assembly Elections, 2025 (in Rs Cr)



Source: Election Commission of India
Data compiled and analysed by ADR

Analysis of Contribution Reports of Electoral Trusts for FY 2024-25

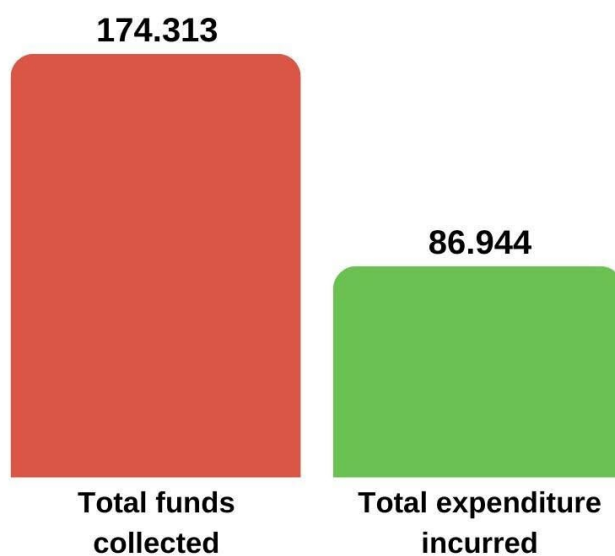
Top 10 Donors to Electoral Trusts, FY 2024-25



Source: Election Commission of India
Data compiled and analysed by ADR

BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2020

Total Funds collected and Expenditure incurred by
Political Parties (in Rs Cr)



Source: Election Commission of India
Data compiled and analysed by ADR



Strategic Litigation

About: Strategic litigation is another vital tool through which ADR has been able to create a momentum for required reform in the political and electoral system. ADR has initiated/intervened in several Public Interest Litigations (PILs), some of which have resulted in landmark judgments.

Some of the important PILs filed by ADR are listed below:

A) Petitions filed in the Supreme Court:

I. Petition bringing Political Parties under RTI, W.P. (C) No. 333/2015:

Summary: On **19th May 2015**, ADR filed a petition in the Supreme Court urging the Court to declare all the national and regional political parties as "public authorities" and bring them within the ambit of the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

Current Status: ADR had contended that there are several constitutional questions involved in the petitions, which have a bearing on the sanctity of the electoral process and therefore, whether it should be referred to a Constitution Bench can be looked at first.

On 14th February 2025, the Supreme Court agreed to conduct a detailed final hearing on the plea to bring political parties under the Right to Information (RTI) Act. This came after ADR through its counsel requested the Court to hear the matter on an urgent basis given the fact that the plea hasn't been heard even once since the time of its filing in the year 2015. The Apex Court has also asked all the parties to complete all the pleadings in the case.

Next date of hearing: The date of the next hearing was not available on the Supreme Court website as of 10th September 2026.

II. Petition challenging amendments in the FCRA, 1976 and 2010 W.P. (C) No. 434/2018:

Summary: On **25th April 2018**, ADR filed a petition in the Supreme Court challenging the amendments made with retrospective effect in the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010 through the Finance Act, 2016 and Finance Act, 2018, which was passed as a Money Bill. These amendments were seen as an attempt to overturn the judgment passed by the Delhi High Court on 28th March, 2014 holding the two major political parties, BJP and INC, guilty of accepting foreign funding. In addition, the Delhi High Court had ordered the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Election Commission of India (ECI) to take action against BJP and INC within six months.

Current Status: ADR had contended that there are several constitutional questions involved in the petitions which have a bearing on the sanctity of the electoral process and therefore, whether it should be referred to a Constitution Bench can be looked at first.

Next date of hearing: As per the Supreme Court's website on 10th September 2026, the matter is likely to be listed on 25th September 2026.

III. Petition on voter discrepancies and mechanism of declaration of election result W.P. (C) No. 1382/2019:

Summary: On **4th November, 2019**, ADR filed a petition in the Supreme Court of India to seek directions from the Supreme Court to order the Election Commission of India to completely stop the practice of announcing election results based on provisional and estimated data, prior to an actual and accurate reconciliation of data. Even for Lok Sabha 2019 Elections, the Election Commission had announced election results in all constituencies on 23rd May 2019, based on estimated data. This is verified by Election Commission's Press Note dated 01 June 2019 that stated "**... the final data on votes counted has been made available within a few days of declaration of results.....**"

ADR has filed three applications in the petition before the Court. The first application was filed on 27th February 2020 against the 'mysterious rush and urgency' shown by the Election Commission of India by destroying the VVPAT slips used in 2019 Lok Sabha elections in just four months after the results were declared. The second application was filed on **4th May 2024** seeking directions to direct the Election Commission of India to upload on its website scanned legible copies of Form 17C Part-I (Account of Votes Recorded) of all polling stations after close of polling of each phase of 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Form 17C Part- II which contains the candidate-wise Result of counting after the compilation of results of the

2024 Lok Sabha elections and tabulated polling station-wise data in absolute figures of the number of votes polled as recorded in Form 17C Part- I after each phase of polling in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The third application was filed on **22nd August 2024**, based on ADR's report titled "Discrepancies between the votes cast and the votes counted in the 2024 Lok Sabha election: Multiple Perspectives" released on 29.07.2024. The said report highlighted significant discrepancies, i.e., a staggering 5,89,691 discrepancies in 538 parliamentary constituencies found in the EVM votes polled and EVM votes counted by the ECI, while declaring the results of the General Elections, 2024.

Current Status of the matter: On 18th March 2025, the Supreme Court directed ADR and other petitioners in the matter to file a submission before the Election Commission of India (ECI) for the redressal of various grievances raised in the captioned petition. This direction of the Apex Court had come upon ECI's own submission before the Court during the hearing held on 18th March 2025 wherein the Commission had asked ADR to have a meeting with the members of the Commission to address various issues raised in the petition.

Consequently, on 24th March 2025, ADR filed a letter/representation before the Election Commission requesting a meeting with the Commission to deliberate upon the issues raised in the petition at length and to examine and place on record certain vital facts about the petition. The letter also highlighted various irregularities and discrepancies found during the 18th Lok Sabha, 2024 Elections between the total votes count and the votes polled data.

ADR, through its representation, made the following suggestions to the Commission in order to deal with various irregularities seen during the elections and to make election results completely free, fair, and accurate;

- i) To conduct actual and accurate reconciliation of data before the declaration of the final result of any election.
- ii) To upload on its website scanned legible copies of Form 17C Part- I (Account of Votes Recorded) of all polling stations which contains the authenticated figures for votes polled, within 48 hours of the close of polling and scanned legible copies of Form 17C Part- II which contains the candidate-wise result of counting after the compilation of results of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections;
- iii) To provide the following information in the public domain for the 2019 and 2024 Lok Sabha elections and for all future elections, i.e., Statutory forms 17C (Account and number of votes recorded), Form 20 (Final Result Sheet), Form 21C, 21D (the candidate to whom the largest number of valid votes have been given), Form 21 E (return of election) and index cards (contains details and break up of voter turnout).

- iv) To provide a specific explanation for the discrepancies which were found in each of the 538 constituencies during the 18th Lok Sabha elections.
- v) To formulate an efficient, transparent, rational and robust procedure/mechanism for the investigation of any discrepancy found in the election data by creating a separate department/grievance cell for investigation of discrepancies in election data for all future elections.

Next date of hearing: The date of the next hearing was not available on the Supreme Court website as of 10th September 2026.

IV. Petition challenging the constitutional validity of the new law dealing with the appointment of Members of the Election Commission W.P. (C) 87/2024:

Summary: On **5th February 2024**, ADR filed a petition in the Supreme Court challenging the constitutional validity of '*The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023*'. The petition states that leaving the appointment of the members of the Election Commission who are critical for our electoral democracy in the hands of the executive would be seriously detrimental to the health of our democracy and for the conduct of free and fair election. The Election Commission should be fearlessly independent and therefore such appointment should only be done by the President of India based on the advice tendered by a committee consisting of the Prime Minister of India, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and, in case, there is no such Leader, the Leader of the largest party in the Opposition in the Lok Sabha having the largest numerical strength, and the Chief Justice of India.

Current Status: The case earlier sat before Chief Justice Surya Kant's bench, but on 20 March 2026, Chief Justice Surya Kant recused from hearing the petition.

Final arguments then began before Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma. On 6th May, senior lawyer Gopal Sankaranarayanan finished his arguments.

On 7th May, lawyer Prashant Bhushan representing ADR concluded his arguments. The judges clarified that their 2023 judgment allowing the CJI on the selection panel was only meant to fill a vacuum until Parliament enacted a law, and didn't require Parliament to frame the law in any particular way. Separately, the Court permitted a fresh affidavit in ADR's petition after its original signatory Prof. Jagdeep S. Chhokar passed away.

On 14th May, the Court reportedly asked the Centre why it was putting up a "show of independence" by keeping the Leader of Opposition on the panel while excluding any neutral member, pointing out that the CJI still sits on the panel for the CBI Director's appointment.

On 30th July, the Supreme Court reserved judgement on whether the batch of petitions challenging the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023 should be referred to a Constitution Bench.

Next date of hearing: The matter was likely to be listed after interim judgment on issue that whether it should be referred to a Constitution Bench. The date of the next hearing was not available on the Supreme Court website as of 10th September 2026.

V. Intervention application in Ashwini Kumar Upadhyaya vs. Union of India and others; Matter relating to disqualification of candidates on charges framed, W.P. (C) 1142/2020:

Summary: On 23rd August 2023, ADR filed an intervention application in the Supreme Court with a sole objective to decriminalize the Indian political system, which is severely infested with tainted legislators by disqualifying such candidates from contesting elections against whom charges have been framed for serious offences.

Current Status: On 3rd November 2023, the Union of India asked for more time to file their response. Four weeks' time was granted to them. Since then, the matter has been getting adjourned.

Next date of hearing: As per the Supreme Court's website on 10th September 2026, the matter is likely to be listed in the week commencing on 15th September 2026.

VI. The Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy Versus Union of India & Ors. W.P. (C) No. 677/2024:

Summary: On 18th July 2025, ADR filed an intervention application in the Supreme Court challenging Section 53(2) of the RP Act, 1951 read with Rule 11 of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 that outlines the procedure for declaring candidates elected in uncontested elections. This gives unbridled and arbitrary powers to the ECI to declare candidates elected in an uncontested election.

ADR had intervened in this petition on 18th July, 2025. The application filed by ADR is primarily centered around the following grappling issues;

- Section 53(2) of the RP Act, 1951 read with Rule 11 of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 goes against Article 14 (Right to equality and reasonable classification), Article 19 (Citizen's Right to vote), Preamble of the Indian Constitution (We the people).
- Such a provision not only permits the unfair entry of law makers by default into the key constitutional posts and offices but this provision also prevents voters from exercising their choice by limiting the number of candidates to the number of seats.
- Elected representatives should not be merely declared elected in the name of the people, but they must actually be voted into office through the mandate of the people.
- Section 53(2) undoubtedly burden both i) the right to vote by preventing electors from voting and ii) by denying candidates the legitimacy of the voter's sanction.
- It was beyond the legislative competence and power of the Parliament to enact Section 53(2) of the Representation of People Act, 1951 and to make such an erroneous provision under law which facilitates the smooth unchecked unaudited entry of candidates without judging them on the basis of merit, integrity and honesty
- This also denies voters the opportunity to use the NOTA option.
- Permitting entry of unopposed candidate not only denies citizen's 'Right to vote' for their "elected" public officers but such an arbitrary provision also goes against the spirit of representative democracy.
- The captioned provisions Act rather deceives the electorate by failing in guarding the public office against persons with dubious background and has rather greeted with open arms.

Next date of hearing: As per the Supreme Court's website on 10th September 2026, the matter is likely to be listed on 18th November 2026.

B) Supreme Court's Judgments:

I. Application for direction in the Supreme Court's judgment on ADR's petition seeking counting of 100% VVPATs in all EVMS W.P. (C) 434/2023:

Summary: On **24th December 2024**, ADR filed an application before the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the ECI to conduct checking and verification of the original burnt memory/micro-controller and Symbol Loading Unit of EVMs in terms of the Supreme Court judgment dated 26.04.2024 in WP(C) No. 434 of 2023 titled Association for Democratic Reform Vs Election Commission of India & Anr. The application also seeks direction to ECI to not clear/delete the contents of the original burnt memory of EVMs where applications for Checking and Verification are pending. In addition, the application also contends that the standard operating procedure framed by ECI for verification of EVMs was not in accordance with its April 2024 judgement in the EVM-VVPAT case.

On **11th February 2025**, the Supreme Court directed the Election Commission to respond to ADR's application seeking directions to the poll body to allow verification of the burnt memory and symbol loading units of electronic voting machines and for verifying EVMs without erasing or reloading data. During the hearing, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) verbally told the ECI counsel that the directions in the April 2024 judgement on VVPATs did not intend to erase or reload the polling data in EVMs. The Court also questioned ECI's SOPs and deemed the verification cost of ₹40,000 as too high, demanding a detailed explanation.

On **07th May 2025**, the Supreme Court of India, through its judgment, outlined a clear procedure to be followed for conducting the verification of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and mock polls by the Election Commission of India (ECI) at the request of a contesting candidate. Based on the aforementioned, the Election Commission had issued two sets of revised instructions dated 17th June and 24th June 2025. The following directions were given by the Court:

- i) The checking and verification of EVM Units will be conducted by the Engineers of the Electronics Corporation of India Limited and Bharat Electronics Limited. The Engineers will issue certificate(s) that they are satisfied that the burnt memory/micro controller and the data/program(s) loaded by them have not been tampered with and their integrity is maintained.**
- ii) In case any candidate wants to conduct a mock poll on the EVM units, he may make a request to the ECI in writing. Thereupon, the Engineers of ECIL or BEL, as the case may be, will operate the EVM Units and show the data, as recorded, on the machine itself, to the candidates and other authorized persons present.**

- iii) It will also be open to the candidates to state that the data loaded on the Symbol Loading Units (SLU) may not be erased and retained for use in the mock poll.

II. ADR's petition in Supreme Court in Association for Democratic Reforms and Ors. Vs Election Commission of India W.P (C) 640/2025

On 24th June 2025, ADR challenged an order of the Election Commission of India directing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar. In the judgment authored by Hon'ble Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, the Court upheld the SIR in Bihar.

The Court's core reasoning rested on four pillars:

First, on the question of ECI's power, the Court held that the Commission acts as an independent constitutional authority under Article 324 and is not disabled from conducting SIR merely because Parliament has legislated in the field. The Court distinguished *Mohinder Singh Gill v. Chief Election Commissioner*, (1978) 1 SCC 405 and *A.C. Jose v. Sivan Pillai*, (1984) 2 SCC 656 on their facts, clarifying that those judgments do not stand for the proposition that ECI becomes powerless once Parliament legislates, but only that ECI must not breach the law.

Second, the Court held that the SIR served the legitimate purpose of restoration of accuracy, completeness and integrity of the electoral roll, and measures adopted bear a rational nexus to the objective sought to be achieved, are not manifestly excessive, and are accompanied by sufficient procedural safeguards to prevent arbitrary exclusion.

Third, the Court rejected ADR's contention that the SIR reversed the burden of proof, holding that the presumption of validity attached to an entry at a given point in time cannot be treated as a perpetual guarantee against scrutiny. The Court found that safeguards of notice and hearing are preserved in substance, and the process adopted by the Commission satisfies the requirements under Rule 21A of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

Fourth, the Court drew a critical distinction: the Commission's enquiry into citizenship is limited to electoral purposes, while holding that it does not amount to a declaration that the individual is not a citizen of India. It only means that the Commission is not satisfied that the person meets the legal conditions required to be on the electoral roll. The Court further directed that all citizenship-related deletions be referred to the competent authority under the Citizenship Act, 1955.

Next date of hearing: Judgment is Reserved.

C) Recommendations:

I. Letter to ECI: Urgent Action Required to Halt Egregious Model Code of Conduct Violations, Enforce ₹40 Lakh Expenditure Limit, and Promote cVIGIL in Ludhiana West Bye-Election

On **10th June 2025**, ADR and Punjab Election Watch wrote a letter to the ECI reporting multiple egregious violations of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and election expenditure regulations in the ongoing Ludhiana West bye-election, with only 9 days remaining until polling on June 19. The following violations threatening voter rights were observed:

- Pervasive Illegal Hoardings and DEO's Dereliction of Duty
- Failure in Expenditure Monitoring Against 40 Lakh Limit
- Unapproved and Oversized Campaign Materials
- Environmental Harm from Campaign Materials
- Misuse of Government Resources
- Erosion of Transparency and Need for cVIGIL Promotion
- Candidate Accountability and Evidence Submission

Urgent Actions Requested to Safeguard Democracy: To halt this assault on voter rights and restore public trust in the Ludhiana West bye election, ADR implored the ECI to:

- Immediately remove all unapproved, oversized, and environmentally harmful campaign materials, adding their costs to candidates' expenditure accounts to ensure compliance with the ₹40 lakh limit.
- Enforce vigilant, impartial monitoring by expenditure observers and election officials, with accurate shadow registers and audits to track all expenses against ₹40 lakh cap per candidate.
- Investigate and halt the misuse of government vehicles and resources for campaigning.
- Replace the current DEO due to their egregious failure to act suo moto on blatant MCC violations, as seen in the unchecked proliferation of illegal hoardings, to restore impartial administration.
- Launch an urgent campaign to vigorously promote the cVIGIL app among Ludhiana West voters to enable real-time reporting of MCC violations and excessive spending, ensuring violators are caught and punished under Section 10A of RPA, 1951.
- Mandate real-time public disclosure of expenditure records, notices, and enforcement actions to enable citizen and media scrutiny of compliance with ₹40 lakh limit.

- Strictly enforce the MCC and election laws, with swift, exemplary action against violators, including disqualification for exceeding expenditure limits.
- Hold the DEO accountable for dereliction of duty under ECI guidelines and Rules 3 and 4 of the Candidate Handbook 2023 regarding inspection of accounts and timely communication to candidates.
- Immediately initiate a comprehensive enquiry into the accuracy of the day-to-day expenditure accounts submitted by the candidates as required by law.
- Issue show-cause notices to candidates found exceeding expenditure limits, and take strict legal action as warranted.
- Forward findings of illegal expenditure to the Income Tax Department for further investigation as appropriate.
- If the election expenditure submission deadline lapses, initiate disqualification proceedings under Section 10A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Letter Link:

https://adrindia.org/sites/default/files/ECI_letter_10th_June_2025_compressed.pdf

II. Suggestions from ADR to the Joint Parliamentary Committee on The Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025

On 6th March, 2026, ADR submitted a written submission before the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) chaired by Ms. Aparajita Sarangi regarding the '*The Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025*' introduced by the Central government. The proposed bill seeks to amend Articles 75, 164, and 239AA of the Constitution by introducing a mechanism mandating the automatic cessation of office for the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, and Ministers upon being arrested and detained for 30 consecutive days for serious criminal offences.

ADR, through its submission, highlighted that certain key aspects of the Bill may invite constitutional challenge, grave propensity of being misused by governments-in-power, time-triggered arrests, focus on pre-trial detention while the core underlying causes behind growing criminalisation remain unaddressed. *In its submission before the JPC, ADR recommended and endorsed some concrete and doable solutions aimed at curbing the growing criminality in politics. Instead of enacting a genuine, robust and preventive electoral reform, the 130th Bill, at best, may only act as a political weapon in the guise of procedural law.*

In order to decriminalize the Indian Political and Electoral system, **there should be a disqualification at the stage of charges framed by the court of law for offences where the punishment is 5 years and above.** The submission reasoned that in a trial, ‘*framing of charges*’ by the court is a crucial step where the investigation by police is complete, trial has begun, cognizance of the offence is taken by the court, there is presence of judicial application of mind and a prima facie founding of the guilt. Whereas the word “jailed” or the fact that a Minister can be removed from office on merely being accused of an offence goes against the universal principles of natural justice, is unconstitutional and will amount to grave abuse of power by governments at the Centre and States.

Meeting with JPC: On 23rd March 2026, on behalf of ADR, Dr Vipul Mudgal (Trustee of ADR), accompanied by Ms Shelly Mahajan (Program & Research Manager (Political Party Watch) at ADR), appeared before the aforesaid Joint Committee. Dr Mudgal presented ADR's concerns, comments and recommendations related to the Bill. Around 12-13 MPs who are members of the Committee were present in the meeting room and attended ADR's presentation. The meeting was chaired by Ms Aparajita Sarangi (MP and National Spokesperson, BJP). Other MPs included Mr Ravi Shankar Prasad (BJP), Mr Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM), Mr Ujjwal Nikam (BJP), Mr Bhartruhari Mahtab (BJP), Mr Brijmohan Agrawal (BJP), Mr Manan Kumar Mishra (BJP), Mr S Niranjan Reddy (YSRCP) and Mr Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu (TDP), among few more.

Suggestion Link:

https://adrindia.org/sites/default/files/ADR_submission_JPC_130th_CA_Bill.pdf

To know more about ADR's commitment to improve democracy, please refer to our complete list of recommendations here: <https://adrindia.org/legal-advocacy/recommendations-submissions>.



Activities on Advocacy, Networking & Voter Awareness

ADR organized several voter awareness activities, press conferences, and panel discussions along with social media campaigns. Many informative articles were also written by in-house researchers; these were published in reputed newspapers and magazines. For over 25 years, ADR has associated with several state partners and eminent personalities who continue to collaborate with ADR for various campaign activities such as meetings, workshops, seminars, and outdoor campaigns to make voters aware of the criminal, financial, and other background details of contesting candidates and help citizens make an informed choice.

Some of the activities conducted by ADR during FY 2025-26 are mentioned below:

1. Endorsement of the CoSP11 Open Letter

ADR endorsed the CoSP11 open letter on political finance transparency by Transparency International. ADR was among the 160+ organisations that were endorsers of this letter, sent to governments, who attended the eleventh session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption (the UN Anti-Corruption Conference), which took place in Doha, Qatar, on 15-19 December 2025. The letter urged them to commit to bringing transparency & integrity to the funding of political parties & candidates. Letter link: <https://files.transparencycdn.org/images/Commit-to-integrity-in-the-funding-of-political-parties-and-candidates.pdf>

2. Authored Articles by ADR & Featured Interviews of ADR

Authored Articles by ADR & Featured Interviews of ADR			
Headline	Publication	Author/Interviewee	Link
Give NOTA more teeth to cleanse electoral system	Deccan Herald	Maj Gen Anil Verma (Retd) (Head of ADR)	https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/give-nota-more-teeth-to-cleanse-electoral-system-3519815
Let there be no room for confusion or cynicism	Deccan Herald	Prof. Jagdeep Chhokar (Founder Member & Trustee of ADR)	https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/caste-census-pahalgam-terror-attack-confusion-delimitation-speculation-3523108

AI and Elections in India A need for better regulations	Deccan Herald	Ms Shelly Mahajan (Program and Research Manager (Political Party Watch), ADR)	https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/ai-and-elections-in-india-a-need-for-better-regulations-3550493
Now is the time to disclose the entire truth known to the ECI	The Indian Express	Prof. Jagdeep Chhokar (Founder Member & Trustee of ADR)	https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/now-is-the-time-to-disclose-the-entire-truth-known-to-the-eci-10074877/
Bihar SIR: Doing the right thing the wrong way	The New Indian Express	Prof. Jagdeep Chhokar (Founder Member & Trustee of ADR)	https://www.newindianexpress.com/opinions/2025/Jul/22/bihar-sir-doing-the-right-thing-the-wrong-way
In Bihar, Is the Election Commission Revising the Electoral Rolls or Compiling an NRC?	The Wire	Prof. Jagdeep Chhokar (Founder Member & Trustee of ADR)	https://thewire.in/government/bihar-electoral-rolls-revision-eci-nrc-election
Half of Bihar could lose voting rights: ADR's Jagdeep Chhokar on EC's voter list revision	Hindustan Times	Prof. Jagdeep Chhokar (Founder Member & Trustee of ADR)	https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/half-of-bihar-could-lose-voting-rights-adr-s-jagdeep-chhokar-on-ec-s-bihar-voter-list-revision-101751978675497.html
Interview: Half of Bihar could lose voting rights — ADR's Jagdeep Chhokar sounds alarm on EC's Bihar voter list revision	Live Mint	Prof. Jagdeep Chhokar (Founder Member & Trustee of ADR)	https://www.livemint.com/news/india/interview-half-of-bihar-could-lose-voting-rights-adr-s-jagdeep-chhokar-sounds-alarm-on-ec-s-bihar-voter-list-revision-11751962032553.html
Risk of vanishing votes in Bihar's revised roll	The Tribune	Prof. Jagdeep Chhokar (Founder Member & Trustee of ADR)	https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/premium/risk-of-vanishing-votes-in-bihars-revised-roll/
आर्थिक और सामाजिक प्रगति के लिए एकजुटता जरूरी	Dainik Jagran (Lucknow)	Prof. Trilochan Sastry (Chairman, Founder Member & Trustee of ADR)	Print Publication
Bihar SIR: Doing the right thing the wrong way	The New Indian Express	Prof. Jagdeep Chhokar (Founder Member & Trustee of ADR)	https://www.newindianexpress.com/opinions/2025/Jul/22/bihar-sir-doing-the-right-thing-the-wrong-way
SIR पारदर्शी नहीं है, न ही यह निष्पक्ष है... पढ़िए ADR के संस्थापक जगदीप छोकर का पूरा इंटरव्यू	Navbharat Times	Prof. Jagdeep Chhokar (Founder Member & Trustee of ADR)	https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/india/bihar-elections-questions-raised-on-election-commission-sir-campaign-process-doubts-on-transparency-and-impartiality-interview-jagdeep-chhokar-founder-of-adr/articleshow/122914919.cms
Interview of Prof. Jagdeep Chhokar on Bihar's 65-lakh question	National Herald	Prof. Jagdeep Chhokar (Founder Member & Trustee of ADR)	https://www.nationalheraldindia.com/national/bihars-65-lakh-question
When the Election Commission becomes a threat to democracy	The Frontline	Prof. Jagdeep Chhokar (Founder Member & Trustee of ADR)	https://frontline.thehindu.com/politics/eci-india-election-transparency-issues-rahul-gandhi/article69928986.ece

Opinion: The SIR in Bihar was a futile bureaucratic exercise	The News Minute	Ms Kathiyayini Chamaraj (ADR's State Coordinator from Karnataka)	https://www.thenewsminute.com/opinion/opinion-the-sir-in-bihar-was-a-futile-bureaucratic-exercise
India's sunshine law: Clouded by the data privacy bill/ Hard-won RTI gains are at risk as privacy legislation tilts the balance against demands of democracy	Live Mint	Dr Ajit Ranade (Founder Member & Trustee of ADR)	https://www.livemint.com/opinion/online-views/right-to-information-india-rti-20th-anniversary-transparency-law-amendments-digital-personal-data-protection-act-corrupt/amp-11760709344095.html
Cash handouts are politically popular but what do they imply for inflation, welfare and fiscal health?	Live Mint	Dr Ajit Ranade (Founder Member & Trustee of ADR)	https://www.livemint.com/opinion/online-views/cash-handouts-politically-popular-inflation-welfare-fiscal-health-universal-basic-income-bihar-election/amp-11763383168865.html
Political funding in India is neither fair nor transparent	The Indian Express	Maj Gen Anil Verma (Retd) (Head of ADR) & Ms Shelly Mahajan (Program and Research Manager (Political Party Watch), ADR)	https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/political-funding-electoral-fund-electoral-trust-electoral-bond-10438389/
Mumbai civic poll is latest theatre of freebie politics	The Indian Express	Dr Ajit Ranade (Founder Member & Trustee of ADR)	https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/mumbai-civic-poll-is-latest-theatre-of-freebie-politics-10472237/
The way forward for determining citizenship	The Hindu	Ms Kathiyayini Chamaraj (ADR's State Coordinator from Karnataka)	https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/opened/the-way-forward-for-determining-citizenship/article70506937.ece
India needs a door-to-door enumeration, not the SIR	The News Minute	Ms Kathiyayini Chamaraj (ADR's State Coordinator from Karnataka)	https://www.thenewsminute.com/karnataka/india-needs-a-door-to-door-voter-enumeration-not-the-sir
SIR to be rejected: Civilisational tradition of this land to be respected	Countercurrents	Ms Kathiyayini Chamaraj (ADR's State Coordinator from Karnataka)	https://countercurrents.org/2026/03/sir-to-be-rejected-civilisational-tradition-of-this-land-to-be-respected/
Fresh citizenship framework suggested amidst electoral roll concerns	Counterview	Ms Kathiyayini Chamaraj (ADR's State Coordinator from Karnataka)	https://www.counterview.net/2026/03/fresh-citizenship-framework-suggested.html
Another law to target political opponents?	National Herald & Free Press Journal	Dr Ajit Ranade (Founder Member & Trustee of ADR)	https://www.nationalheraldindia.com/opinion/another-law-to-target-political-opponents , https://www.freepressjournal.in/analysis/130th-amendment-bill-why-proposal-to-disqualify-ministers-on-arrest-misses-the-mark

3. Stakeholder Discussion on Electoral & Political Reforms: Issues, Challenges & Recommendations

ADR & National Election Watch (NEW) organised a **Stakeholder Discussion on Electoral & Political Reforms: Issues, Challenges & Recommendations** on 10th March 2026 at Multipurpose Hall (Kamaladevi Complex), India International Centre, New Delhi. The discussion saw an array of members of political parties, ex-CECs, lawyers, academics and leading thinkers in this area participating in the discussion along with students, journalists and members from various civil society groups.

The objective of this event was to compile some concrete reform proposals based on the discussion between the stakeholders for public dissemination and submission to relevant authorities for implementation. The panellists delivered value-added discussions at this opportune event and answered multiple questions from the audience. At the beginning of the event, ADR released a report on '**Political Finance in India: Assessment and Recommendations**'. The report is a joint publication of ADR and the University of Melbourne's Electoral Regulation Research Network (ERRN). For the complete report, please click [here](#).

Press Release of the Stakeholder Discussion containing key takeaways: [Link](#)

The report was launched at the hands of (from Left to Right in picture below) Maj Gen Anil Verma (Retd) (Head of ADR & National Election Watch (NEW)), Ms Shivani Kapoor (Program Lead & Manager (Legal) at ADR), Prof. Trilochan Sastry (Chairman, Founder Member & Trustee - ADR & NEW), Mr Om Prakash Rawat (former Chief Election Commissioner of India), Dr Ajit Ranade (Founder Member & Trustee - ADR & NEW), Mr Anish Gawande (National Spokesperson, NCP (SP)), Mr Hemant Singh (Program Associate (Political Party Watch) at ADR) & Ms Shelly Mahajan (Program and Research Manager (Political Party Watch) at ADR).



Session 1: Criminalization of Politics: Implications for Electoral Integrity ([Video Link](#))

Chair: Prof. Trilochan Sastry (Chairman, Founder Member & Trustee of ADR & NEW)

Speakers:

1. Mr Om Prakash Rawat (former Chief Election Commissioner of India)
2. Mr Anish Gawande (National Spokesperson, NCP (SP))
3. Mr Ghanshyam Tiwari (National Spokesperson, Samajwadi Party) [joined online]
4. Ms Priyanka Kakkar (Chief National Spokesperson, AAP)



Session 2: Rebuilding Transparency in Political Finance Post-Electoral Bonds ([Video Link](#))

Chair: Dr Ajit Ranade (Founder Member & Trustee - ADR & NEW)

Speakers:

1. Mr Manish Tewari (Member of the Lok Sabha, INC)
2. Dr Gumma Thanuja Rani (Member of the Lok Sabha, YSRCP)
3. Mr Saurabh Bhardwaj (President, AAP- Delhi Unit)
4. Dr Niranjana Sahoo (Senior Fellow, ORF)
5. Mr Venkatesh Nayak (Director, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative) [joined online]



Session 3: The Impact of Election Commissioners' Appointment Procedures on Electoral Credibility ([Video Link](#))

Chair: Dr Vipul Mudgal (Trustee - ADR & NEW)

Speakers:

1. Hon'ble Mr Justice Madan Bhimarao Lokur (Chairperson, United Nations Internal Justice Council and former Judge, Supreme Court of India)
2. Mr Sasikanth Senthil (Member of the Lok Sabha, INC)
3. Mr Ashok Lavasa (former Election Commissioner of India)
4. Ms Anjali Bhardwaj (Social Activist)



4. Webinars Organised by ADR

ADR organised webinars on pertinent issues via StreamYard. Expert panellists and speakers from non-profit organizations, political parties, media, academic communities, ECI officials and former bureaucrats participated in the forum. The panellists delivered interesting talks which added great value to the discussions and also answered multiple questions from the audience during the interactive sessions towards the end.

Webinars Organised by ADR via StreamYard				
Date	Topic	Moderator	Speakers	Link
10 Jun'25	Is it time to give NOTA more teeth?	Dr Ajit Ranade (Founder Member & Trustee of ADR)	• Shri Ashok Lavasa (former Election Commissioner, Election Commission of India) • Shri Ghanshyam Tiwari (National Spokesperson, Samajwadi Party) • Ms Anjali Bhardwaj (Social Activist) • Shri Manu Sebastian (Managing Editor, Live Law)	https://adrindia.org/node/96702
07 Aug'25	Special Intensive Revision of the Electoral Rolls: Enhancing the purity of electoral rolls or disenfranchising the electorate?	Prof. Jagdeep Chhokar (Founder Member & Trustee of ADR)	• Shri Om Prakash Rawat (former Chief Election Commissioner, Election Commission of India) • Dr Manoj Jha (Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha & National Spokesperson, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)) • Ms Sravasti Dasgupta (Senior Reporter, The Wire)	https://adrindia.org/node/96786
15 Jan'26	Decriminalisation of Politics: Is the 130th Constitution Amendment Bill the right path?	Dr Vipul Mudgal (Trustee of ADR)	• Shri T.S. Krishnamurthy (former Chief Election Commissioner, Election Commission of India) • Dr Laxmikant Bajpai (Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and National Vice President, Bharatiya Janata Party) • Ms Anamika Yadav (National Coordinator, All India Mahila Congress) • Dr Fuad Halim (Senior Leader, Communist Party of India (Marxist)) • Shri Chakshu Roy (Head of Legislative and Civic Engagement Initiatives, PRS Legislative Research)	https://adrindia.org/node/97406

Webinars by ADR



5. Invited Speakers from ADR

Various organisations invited ADR to share its work/research/findings/opinions related to electoral and political reforms. The table below contains details of the same:

Invited Speakers from ADR					
Event	Date	Location/ Platform	Topic	Invited Speaker(s) from ADR	Link
Asia-Pacific Regional Forum 2025 by Asia Centre and Global Democracy Coalition	04 Apr'25	Hybrid (Bangkok & Online)	Electoral Participation and Political Representation of Indian Youth: Issues and Challenges	Ms Shelly Mahajan, Program and Research Officer (Political Party Watch)	https://adrindia.org/node/96667
National Seminar on "Criminality & Candidature: Prohibiting criminals from being appointed as Ministers"	12 Apr'25	India International Centre, New Delhi	Citizens Perspectives	Prof. Trilochan Sastry, Chairman, Founder Member & Trustee	https://adrindia.org/node/96649
Panel Discussion	09 Aug'25	BIFT Hall, Bengaluru	Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls in Bihar	Prof. Jagdeep Chhokar, Founder Member & Trustee	https://adrindia.org/node/96955
Interactive Session by Citizens' Forum India (CFI)	16 Aug'25	Zoom	Bihar SIR	Maj Gen Anil Verma, Head	https://adrindia.org/node/96964
Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 Webinar	02 Nov'25	Zoom	Business Integrity and Collective Action	• Dr Vipul Mudgal, Trustee • Maj Gen Anil Verma (Retd), Head	https://adrindia.org/node/97362
Seminar by Citizens for Democracy (CFD) and Dr Rajendra Prasad Academy	27 Nov'25	Rajendra Bhawan, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi	Electoral Reforms	Maj Gen Anil Verma, Head	https://adrindia.org/node/97365
Interactive Session by Citizens' Forum India (CFI)	29 Nov'25	Zoom	SIR across 12 States & UTs, Bihar SIR & ADR's Analysis of the results of Bihar Assembly Elections 2025	Maj Gen Anil Verma, Head	https://adrindia.org/node/97361
Ag-Liberte 2026 – Eco-Alliance for Participatory Growth	06 Jan'26	O By Tamara Hotel, Coimbatore	Citizen-led Governance for Participatory Growth	Maj Gen Anil Verma, Head	https://adrindia.org/node/97630

Invited Speakers from ADR



6. Hum Badlengi Apna Bharat, an ADR Youth Outreach Programme

To motivate, inform, and involve youth in the political & electoral reforms processes, ADR initiated a Youth Outreach programme called **Hum Badlengi Apna Bharat (HBAB)** in FY 2016-17. The programme aims to educate Indian youths of the challenges faced by Indian Democracy today. With the support of our State Coordinators, we are committed to taking this programme to the maximum number of youths across the country.

i. Organize workshops/talks/lectures

ADR organises workshops in colleges where important points such as **Decriminalisation of Politics, Expenditure on Election Campaigns, Functioning of Political Parties, and Role of Youth in Strengthening Democracy** are discussed. On the request of colleges and schools, ADR also organises a topic-centric workshop. The workshop trainers use videos, audio, quiz papers and other interactive materials to engage with the youth. The table below shows details of events conducted under this programme in FY 2025-26:

Organise workshops/talks/lectures					
Event	Date	Location/Platform	Topic	Invited Speaker from ADR	Link
Guest Lecture	27 Jan'26	Xavier Institute of Communications, Mumbai	Policy communications and Role of youth in strengthening Indian democracy	Ms Nandini Raj, Program Manager (Communications)	https://adrindia.org/node/97625
Documentary Release and Guest Lecture	28 Jan'26	Christ College - Delhi NCR Campus, Ghaziabad	Democracy Today, Electoral Participation, and Role of Youth	Ms Shelly Mahajan, Program & Research Manager (Political Party Watch)	https://adrindia.org/node/97618
Talk	05 Feb'26	Jesus & Mary College, New Delhi	Legal Reforms to Strengthen Indian Democracy: SIR and Appointment of Election Commissioners	Ms Shivani Kapoor, Program Lead & Manager (Legal)	https://adrindia.org/node/97621
Voter Awareness Workshop at Samuel Foundation (Uttam Nagar Branch)	06 Feb'26	Samuel Foundation, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi	Voter Awareness	- Mr Hemant Singh, Program Associate (Political Party Watch) - Mr Suraj Singh, Program Executive (Election Watch)	https://adrindia.org/node/97623
Voter Awareness Workshop at Samuel Foundation (Garhi Branch)	09 Feb'26	Samuel Foundation, Garhi, New Delhi	Voter Awareness	Mr Aman Soni, Senior Program Executive (Election Watch)	https://adrindia.org/node/97624
Guest Lecture	27 Feb'26	Guru Gobind Singh College, New Delhi (Google Meet)	Political and Electoral Reforms in India	Ms Shivani Kapoor, Program Lead & Manager (Legal)	https://adrindia.org/node/97622

ii. Campus Ambassador Programme

Campus Ambassador Programme, an ADR Youth Outreach Programme, aims to engage with college youth on issues related to Indian democracy and involve them proactively in organizing events. The selected Campus Ambassadors are apprised about the issues ADR is working on and their roles and responsibilities as ADR campus representative. These Ambassadors later hold various programmes in their colleges to spread awareness about the issues ADR is fighting for. All the activities are approved, sponsored, assisted & supervised by the ADR Team. The table below shows the details of the events organised by Campus Ambassadors in FY 2025-26:

Campus Ambassador Programme						
Event	Date	Location	Topic	Campus Ambassador	Speaker from ADR	Link
Webinar	12 Apr'25	Miranda House, University of Delhi (DU)	One Nation One Election	Ms Nehal Jain from Miranda House, DU	Ms Shelly Mahajan, Program & Research Manager (Political Party Watch)	https://adrindia.org/node/96651
Webinar	03 May'25	Lady Shri Ram College, DU	One Nation One Election	Ms Tarini Sharma from Lady Shri Ram College, DU	Ms Shelly Mahajan, Program & Research Manager (Political Party Watch)	https://adrindia.org/node/96666
Webinar	15 May'25	Central University of Rajasthan (CURAJ), Ajmer	Criminalisation of Politics and its Impact on Democratic Governance	Mr Gautam Jha from CURAJ, Ajmer	Ms Shivani Kapoor, Program Lead & Manager (Legal)	https://adrindia.org/node/96682
Webinar	28 May'25	National University of Study and Research in Law (NUSRL), Ranchi	Criminality in Politics: Should Lawbreakers Be Lawmakers?	Mr Gaurav Kumar Mandal from NUSRL, Ranchi	Ms Shivani Kapoor, Program Lead & Manager (Legal)	https://adrindia.org/node/96700
Quiz Competition	05 Aug'25	Central University of Rajasthan, Ajmer	Know Your Democracy	Mr Gautam Jha from CURAJ, Ajmer	NA	https://adrindia.org/node/96954
PolicyVarta Lecture Series	23 Nov'25	CURAJ, Ajmer (Zoom)	Reading Democracy through Data: Exploring Electoral Integrity and Governance	Mr Gautam Jha from CURAJ, Ajmer	Ms Shelly Mahajan, Program & Research Manager (Political Party Watch)	https://adrindia.org/node/97363

Vidhan – The Policy Triathlon (Edition II)	22 Feb'26	IIM Ranchi campus	Several topics	Mr Gaurav Kumar Mandal from NUSRL, Ranchi	NA	https://adrindia.org/node/97421
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iii. Workshop for Future Leaders

To sensitize future leaders, ADR also conducts workshops on electoral and political reforms for youths who are part of a Fellowship Programme.

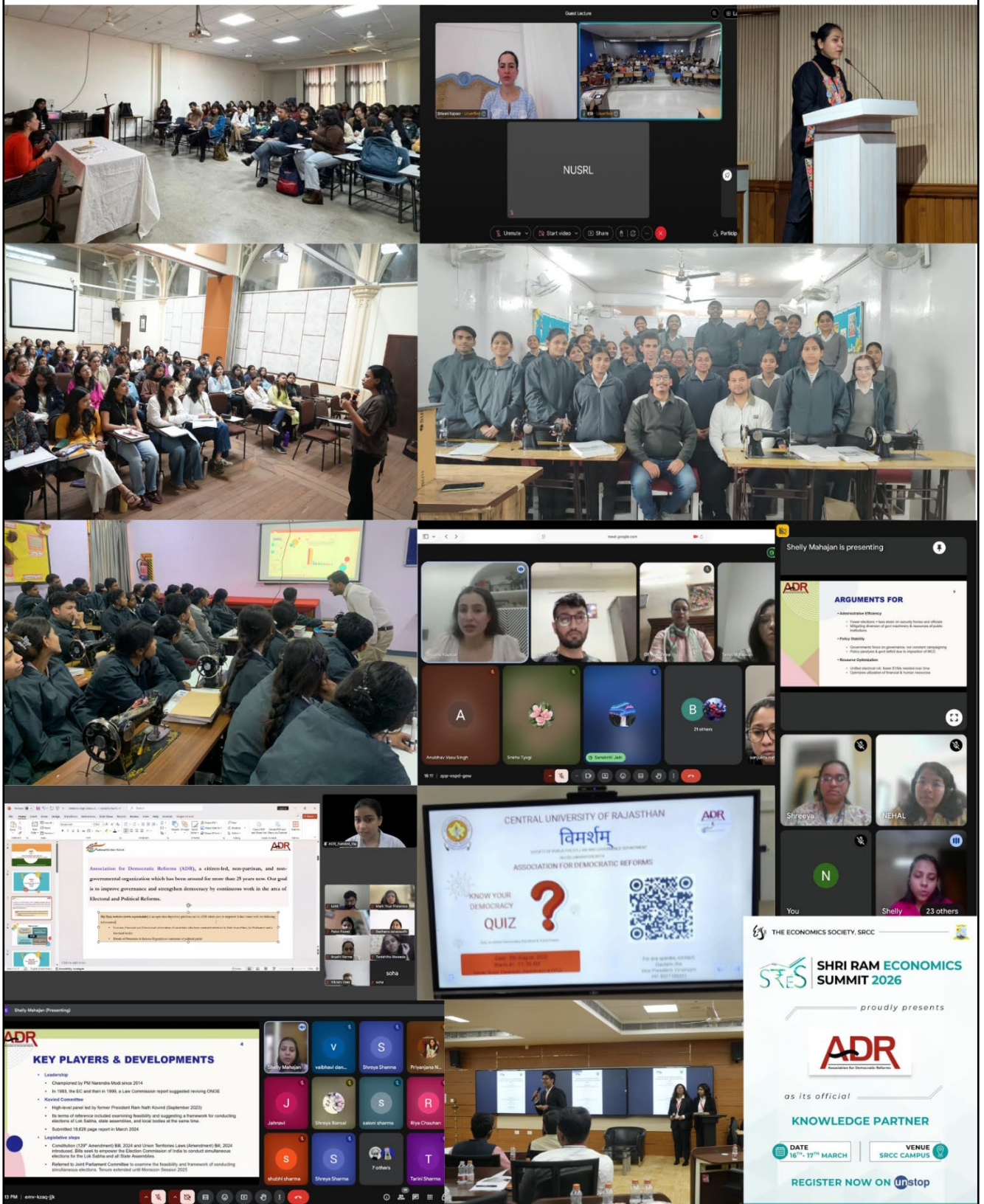
Workshop for Future Leaders					
Fellowship Programme	Date	Platform	Topic	Speaker from ADR	Link
Policy Leadership Program of Maharashtra (PLM)	24 Aug'25	Zoom	Understanding ADR's Work in Electoral Spaces	Ms Nandini Raj, Program Manager (Communications)	https://adrindia.org/node/97018
Policy Leadership Program of Maharashtra (PLM)	30 Aug'25	Zoom	PILs that Changed the Electoral Reforms	Ms Shivani Kapoor, Program Lead & Manager (Legal)	https://adrindia.org/node/97020

iv. Other Student Collaborations

ADR partnered with colleges to organise case study, article writing and quiz competitions. The table below contains details of the same:

Other Student Collaborations				
Event	Date	Platform	Topic	Link
2nd National Essay Writing Competition by the Literary and Debating Society of Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai	15 Jul'25	Online Submission	Citizens First: Depoliticization of Development and Political Accountability	https://adrindia.org/node/96713
National Article Writing Competition by Centre for Human Rights and Disability Studies, Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla	28 Feb'26	Online Submission	Electoral Rights of Persons with Disabilities	https://adrindia.org/node/97402
Shri Ram Economics Summit 2026	16 Mar'26	Shri Ram College of Commerce, New Delhi	Case Study	https://adrindia.org/node/97626

Hum Badlenge Apna Bharat



7. Voter Awareness Campaigns

Ahead of **Bihar Assembly Elections 2025**, ADR used various mediums to encourage people to vote for candidates with clean images. Various creative and engaging videos, posters, pamphlets, and brochures were designed to educate the people about the importance of Informed and Ethical Voting, Issue of Criminality, etc., and were disseminated via various mediums during the elections.

- **Letters to Political Parties:** Letters were sent to the President of Political Parties and newly sworn-in Chief Minister of **Bihar** to provide a clean and exemplary governance to the people by choosing honest and capable Ministers.
- **Print and TV Presence:** ADR remained an active participant in debates around the issues of electoral reforms. ADR garnered press coverage of **over 2,132 and participated in 29 TV interviews, debates, and discussions** in FY 2025-26. Coverage link- <https://adrindia.org/media/adr-in-news>
Debate & Discussions: <https://adrindia.org/media/video-gallery>
- **Digital Creators:** Some digital creators promoted ADR & MyNeta.info organically and on a pro bono basis. These videos garnered **over 20 million views**. Here is the compilation of the videos: <https://adrindia.org/node/96701>.
- **Media Collaborations:** ADR collaborates with **media houses** to disseminate and display ADR's reports and details of candidates contesting elections via media houses' websites with ADR's logo and name. The data was shared via Application Program Interfaces (APIs) with the following media houses. For Bihar Assembly Elections 2025, ADR collaborated with **Amar Ujala Web Series, T.V. Today Network Limited (Aaj Tak, India Today, etc.), NDTV Convergence Limited (NDTV), Independent News Service Private Limited (India TV), Times Internet Limited & Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. (BCCL), The Hindu, TV9, Ikroy (deKoder), and Navabharat Media.**

Media Collaborations

THE HINDU
World Sport Data Health Opinion Science Entertainment Pre

Mukesh Kumar Ram

HERRY / TAMIL NADU / WEST BENGAL / RESULTS

Party BSP	Occupation JOB	Constituency & State AGLAON (SC), BIHAR LOST
Education DOCTORATE	Liabilities 0	Polling Date NOVEMBER 8, 2025
Age 59	Total Income 70067	
Assets 29.6Lac	Criminal Cases NO	

Mukesh Kumar Ram is contesting 2025 Bihar Assembly Elections on as BSP candidate from , Aglaon (Sc) constituency, Bhojpur. Mukesh Kumar Ram 's...

[SHOW MORE](#)

ADR Association for Democratic Reforms

ADR Association for Democratic Reforms

All the information available on this page has been provided by Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) | MyNeta.info and sourced from election affidavits available in the public domain of Election Commission of India.

NBT नवभारत टाइम्स

By THE TIMES OF INDIA

कुल संपत्ति	1.6Crore
बैंक की ऋण	7.3Lac
देयता	55.7Lac
कुल आय	14.4Lac
व्यवसाय	MLA
कै नंबर विद्य ब्या (हां, नहीं)	Y

ADR Association for Democratic Reforms

ADR Association for Democratic Reforms

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चुनाव 2026 विधानसभा क्षेत्र गढ़मंडन रिजल्ट पश्चिम बंगाल असम केरल तमिलनाडु

Hindi News > Elections 2025 > Assembly Election > Candidates > Bihar Candidate List > Tejashwi Prasad Y

Tejashwi Prasad Yadav बिहार विधानसभा चुनाव परिणाम 2025



नाम	Tejas
उम्र	36 वर्ष
लिंग	पुरुष
विधानसभा क्षेत्र	Raghopur
आपराधिक मामले	Yes (22)

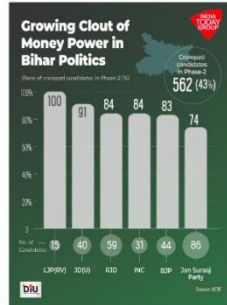
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होम	वीडियो	HOT SEAT	विधानसभा सीट	प्रमुख उम
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अन्य सूचना

आयु	39	अवत संपत्ति (Rs)	20.6 Lac
लिंग	M	लायबिलिटी/देयताएं (Rs)	-
मामले	No	Pan Given	Y
पेशा	Job	आय (Rs)	70067
कुल संपत्ति (Rs)	29.6 Lac	कुल आय (Rs)	70067
चल संपत्ति (Rs)	9 Lac		

Source : Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) | MyNeta.info



NDTV ELECTIONS

Jayant Raj

Age : 40
Gender : M
Party : JDU
Constituency : Amarpur
Education : Post Graduate
Cases : No
Sitting MLA : Y
Total Assets : ₹ 3 crore
Liabilities (Rs) : ₹ 43.4 lakh
Movable Assets : ₹ 2 crore

All the information available on this page has been provided by Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) | MyNeta and sourced from election affidavits available in the public domain of Election Commission of India.

अमर उजाला

सम्बंधित उम्मीदवार

View All Candidates

एम.ओ.एच.एम. साहू

के. कामराज

आरुण

के. सुनील

Source By:

ADR Association for Democratic Reforms

ADR Association for Democratic Reforms

Association for Democratic Reforms ADR | MyNeta.info

formations but is now a steadfast BJP ally. He has played a pivotal role in the Magadh region. He has been vocal in his endorsement of BJP's leadership, which may continue to be generous to his demands, at times in a way that's clearly disproportionate to his political strength in Bihar. In Indian politics, that's a big proof of success for a small party.

It's a double whammy for him, CPML(L) has not only lost considerable ground but, in the process, has also lost its ideological shrew in search of political ally. This was clearly visible in Sonpat, where it found an ally in Dharma Shakti, son of gangster politician M.L. Shukla. CPML(L) had once waged a relentless political battle. He will now have to think of ways to keep his party relevant.

DANCE of DEMOCRACY BIHAR 2025

Winners & Losers

NARENDRA MODI
A landslide in Bihar on the back of BJP's emphatic show in Mayur, Mahendragiri and Dilli, adds to his enduring appeal and popularity. Some might argue it even points to increasing appeal among voters. No, BJP benefited from voters' fondness for Nitish. But that BJP won more seats with a...

RAHUL GANDHI
In a state where Congress was a junior partner to BJD, his party's roll will have a disproportionate impact on him as he ran a shrill campaign against SML, an issue that failed to cut in with the electorate. His choice of campaign issues has often drawn scorn from the Congress's miserable performance in Bihar will add to the criticism. Politics is unforgiving, so he may find it difficult to get recognition after to support the just themes.

AMIT SHAH
The sharpest election strategist India has seen in a long time, as well as a heavyweight without confidence in elections, both for BJP and its allies, he started plotting the Bihar campaign in challenging circumstances, with questions swirling about both Nitish and the lack of a BJP face in Bihar. He began shaping and executing BJP's poll strategy as a grand plan before elections were announced - a practice he began in 2013, when he first came to the national stage. His job was also placing grandstanding allies and reaching out to disoriented. His management skills are the backbone of this BJP win, like they have done for so many of the party's victories.

TEJASHWI YADAV
Lulu's favourite child now looks of an uncertain future. Given how dynamic career work, his leadership of BJP may not be questioned immediately, but BJP's handling performance means that the party's many setbacks as well as its longstanding supporters among Yadavs and Muslims will turn hostile. At least some may consider looking at other options. His attempts to distance himself from the memories of his father's reign - and the general animosity associated with KJD start to convince everyone, voters also saw through his unrealistic poll promises.

CHIRAG PASWAN
He has again proved what makes him a coveted swing ally in the fractured polity of Bihar. Without him, NDA barely clinging to office in 2020. The prime minister drove a hard bargain with his much bigger allies and has delivered even in seats considered rather difficult. However, the scale of the mandate for bigger allies BJP and JDU also limits his scope for bargaining.

SANJAY JHA
Jha's BJP background and upper caste identity had made him a target for more than a few detractors within JDU. But the party's working president has now earned his stripes. Working diligently under Nitish's shadow, he marshalled the party's campaign, including the always tricky job of ticket distribution. He also ensured smooth coordination with allies. The big win is also a big boost to his standing in JDU.

UPENDRA KUSHWAHA
Coming from a politically important caste, the RLM leader can now hope for a ministerial berth in Modi's govt, a position he had in 2014-15. He remains a helpful cog in the NDA wheel in Bihar. The win will lend him political self, something he has long coveted but struggled to acquire.

MUKESH SAHANI
He has jumped between alliances as bigger parties courted him in search of swing votes. He bargained hard, kept channels open with both sides, and MDA to announce him as deputy CM candidate. But the results are a body blow to his ambitions. He is unlikely to find any taker now.



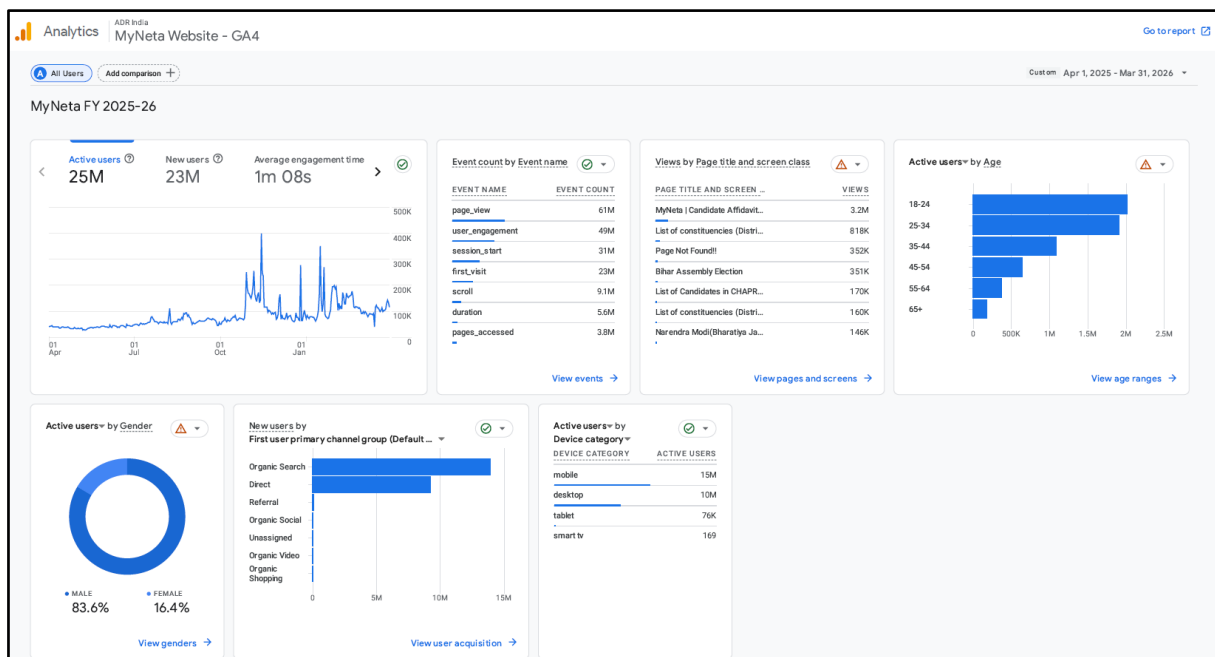
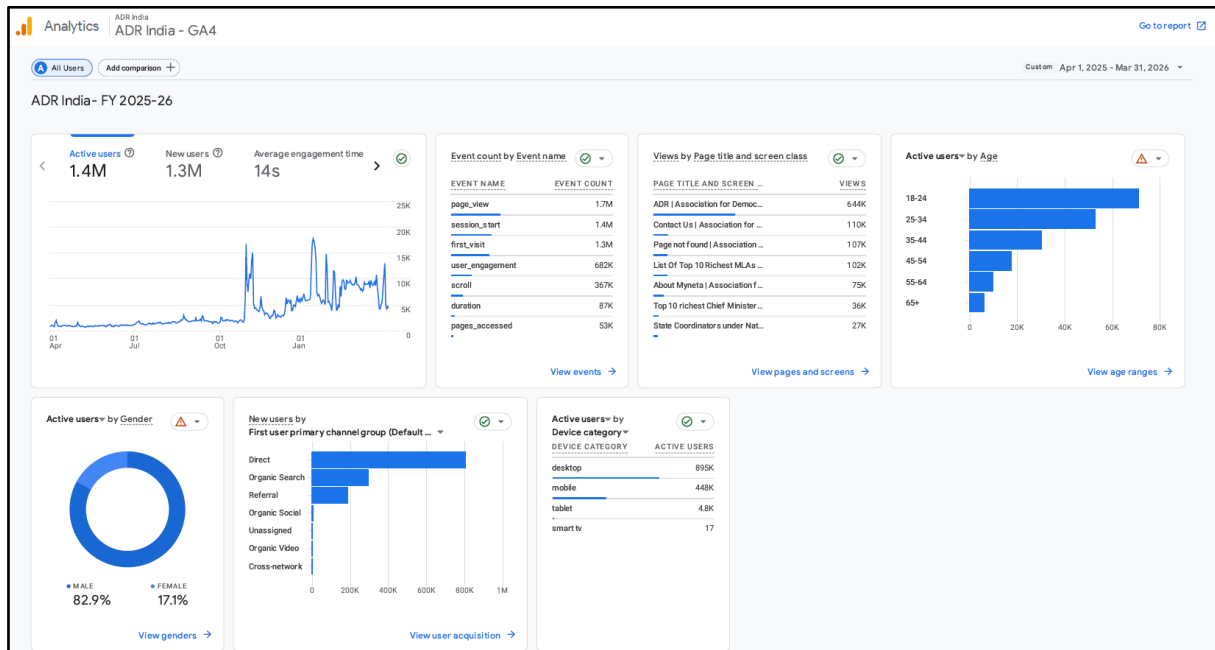
- **Digital Presence:** Throughout the year, more intensively ahead of elections, ADR kept posting informative and creative infographics and news items on social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter to disseminate information. Many of the infographics posted on these social media platforms received hundreds of shares and likes. The reports were first released in ADR's Google Groups, which have researchers, scholars, journalists, politics-enthusiasts, lawyers, and people from different arenas. Post that, infographics based on the reports were published on social media platforms.

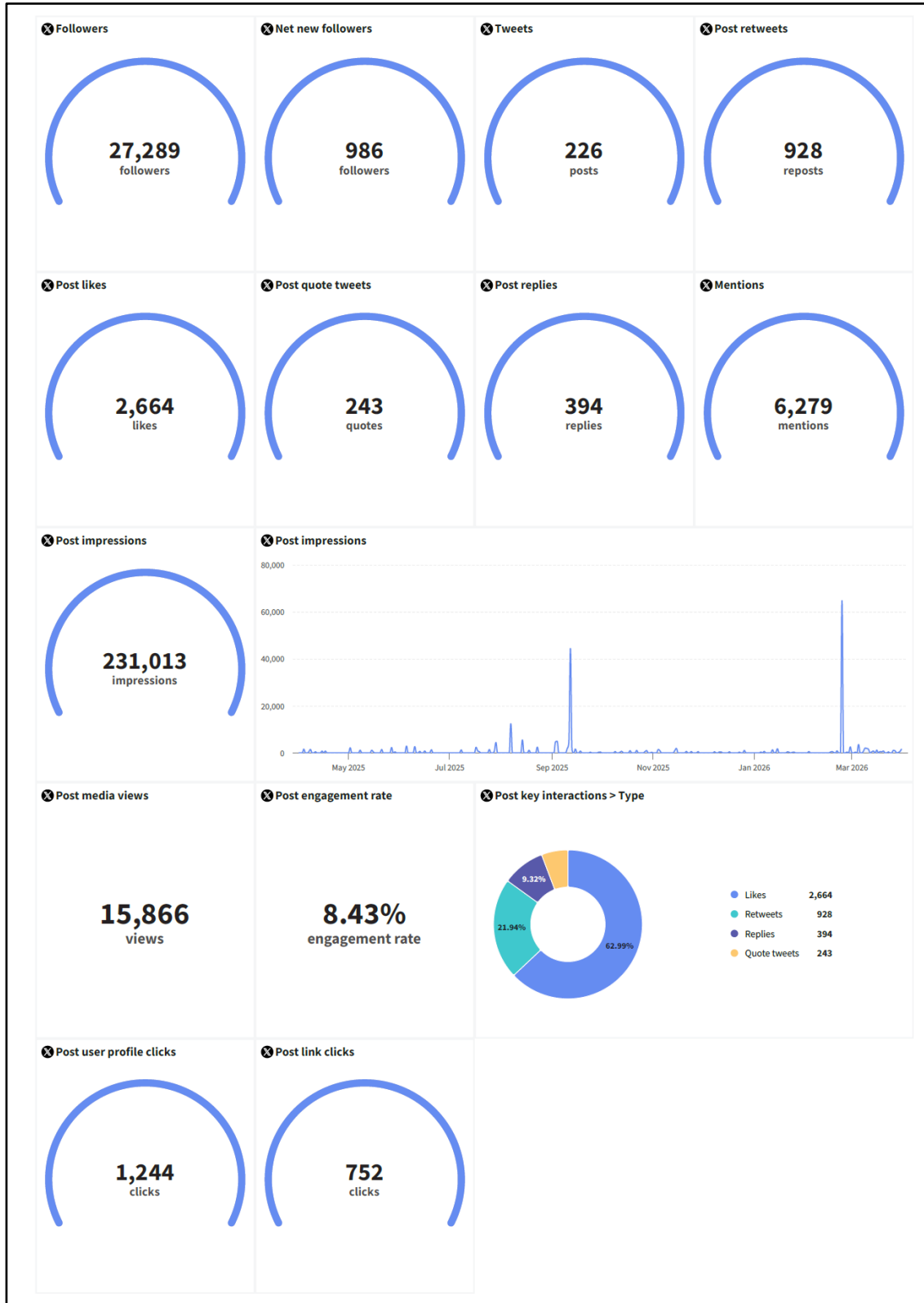
ADR also has a **WhatsApp Business Account**, which was used to disseminate press releases, reports, and infographics directly to around 195 subscribers.

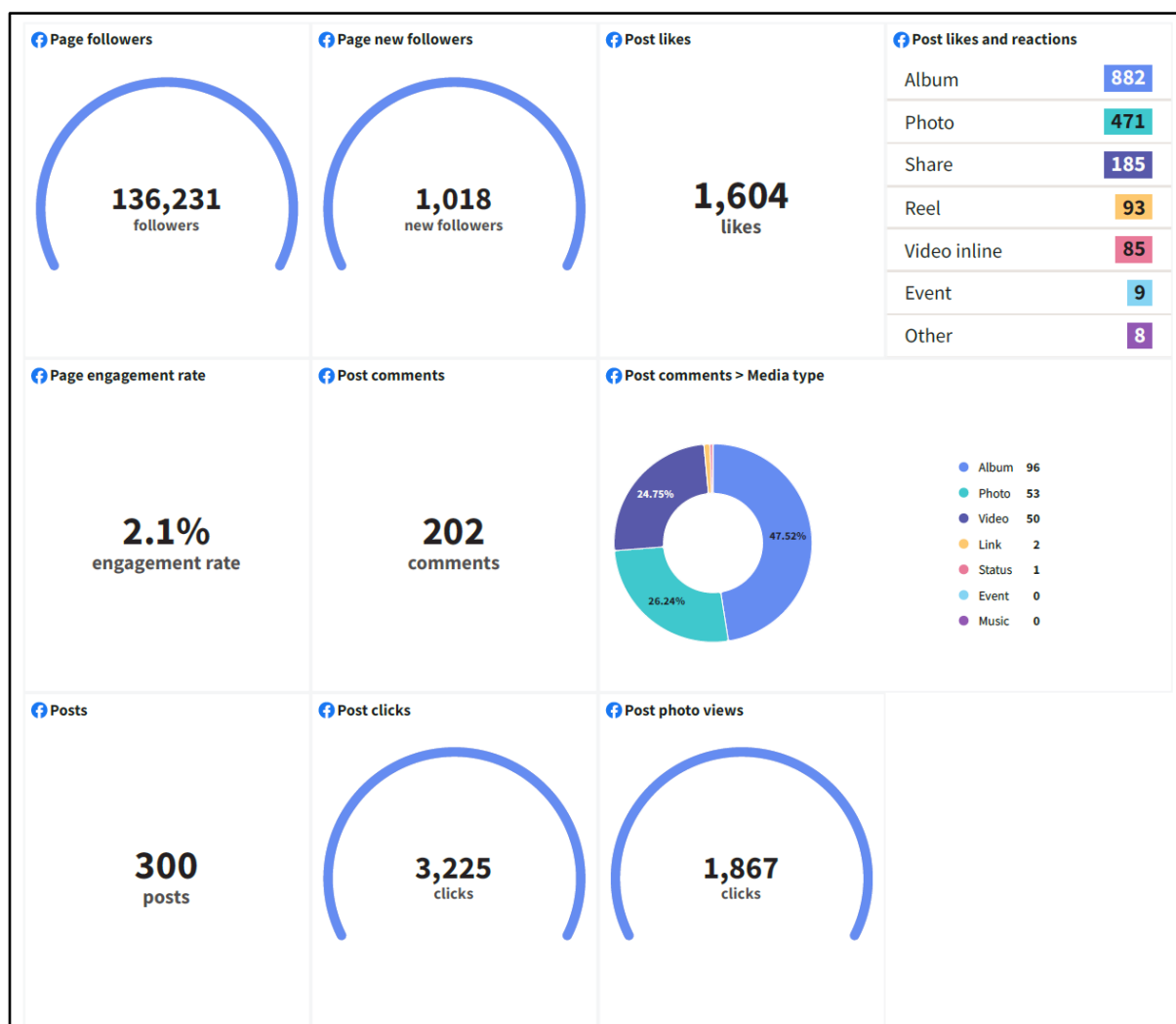
On www.adrindia.org website, engaging creatives such as banners, pictures, posters, videos, relevant news articles were posted, other than ADR's reports. The contents on the website aimed to be resourceful, interesting, and user-friendly.

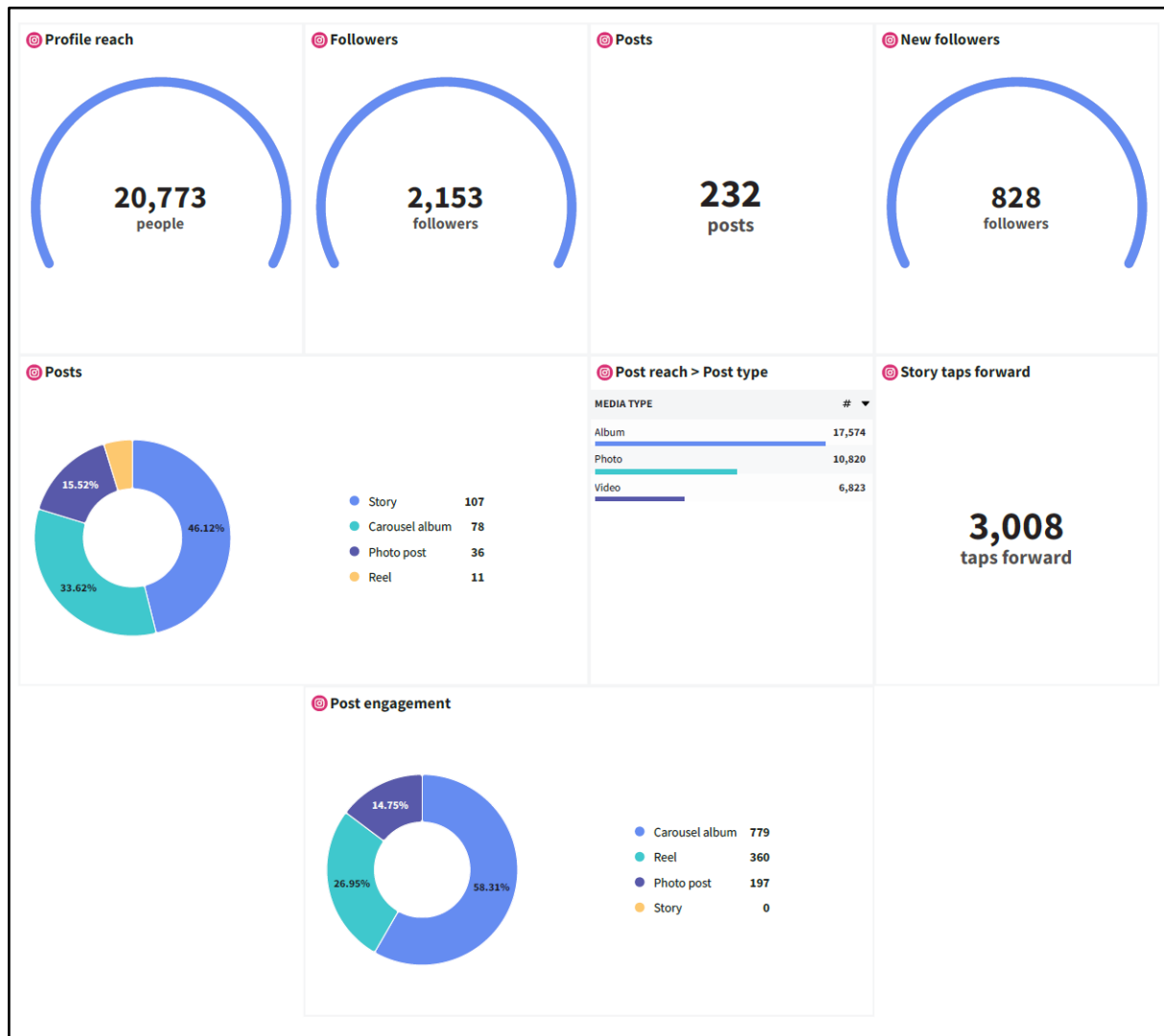
The following are the email, social media, and website analytics for FY 2025-26.

 <u>National Election Watch</u> <u>(General Public) till 30th July 2026</u> Group Members: 15,555 <u>National Election Watch News</u> <u>(Only for Journalists) till 30th July 2026</u> Group Members: 6,173	 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">01st April 2025 to 31st March 2026</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total Videos</td><td>05</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total Shorts</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total Live Streams</td><td>05</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total Posts</td><td>126</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total Views</td><td>24,439</td></tr> <tr> <td>New Subscribers</td><td>668</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total Impressions</td><td>2,70,587</td></tr> <tr> <td>Impressions Click-through rate</td><td>3.8%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Watch Time (Hours)</td><td>1,159.8</td></tr> <tr> <td>Average View Duration</td><td>1:46</td></tr> </tbody> </table> Followers as on 30th July 2026: 9,064	01st April 2025 to 31st March 2026		Total Videos	05	Total Shorts	11	Total Live Streams	05	Total Posts	126	Total Views	24,439	New Subscribers	668	Total Impressions	2,70,587	Impressions Click-through rate	3.8%	Watch Time (Hours)	1,159.8	Average View Duration	1:46
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Average View Duration	1:46																						









Activities Organized by ADR's State Chapters

ADR and the State Election Chapters launched voter awareness campaigns against the increasing influence of criminalization and money power in elections.

- Bihar Election Watch**

Voter Awareness Workshops Organised by Bihar Election Watch		
Date	Location	Link
29 Sep'25	Halalpur Madarpur, Hajipur, Vaishali	https://adrindia.org/node/97297
06 Oct'25	Muskan- District De-addiction Center, Samastipur	https://adrindia.org/node/97436
07 Oct'25	Jhapania, Banka	https://adrindia.org/node/97438
07 Oct'25	Tribal belts of Katoria constituency, Banka	https://adrindia.org/node/97437
07 Oct'25	Kaswa Manda, Banka	https://adrindia.org/node/97439
08 Oct'25	School in Banka	https://adrindia.org/node/97440
14 Oct'25	Sheodhar Anutha High School, Kotwa, East Champaran	https://adrindia.org/node/97458
15 Oct'25	Station Road, Ganichak, Khusrupur, Patna	https://adrindia.org/node/97459
16 Oct'25	Fatehpur, Gaya	https://adrindia.org/node/97456
17 Oct'25	Bapu Dham ITI College, Chhota Bariyarpur, Motihari	https://adrindia.org/node/97460 (including Signature Campaign)
17 Oct'25	Rajkiyakrit Krishna Kumari Vidya Mandir, Dharhara, Block - Hajipur, Vaishali	https://adrindia.org/node/97461 (including Signature Campaign & Human Chain Activity)
21 Oct'25	Fatehpur Village, Gaya	https://adrindia.org/node/97462
21 Oct'25	Harishankar Auditorium, Motihari	https://adrindia.org/node/97463 (including Signature Campaign)
24 Oct'25	Bihar Sharif, Nalanda	https://adrindia.org/node/97464 (including Signature Campaign)
26 Oct'25	Chhath Pooja Area, Samastipur	https://adrindia.org/node/97467
27 Oct'25	Chhath Ghat, Shambhupatti, Samastipur	https://adrindia.org/node/97468
29 Oct'25	Madhopur Dighraua, Tajpur, Samastipur	https://adrindia.org/node/97469

30 Oct'25	Hajipur	https://adrindia.org/node/97471 (including Signature Campaign)
03 Nov'25	Phoolganj Village, Fatehpur, Bodh Gaya, Gaya	https://adrindia.org/node/97491
03 Nov'25	Holy Mission High School, Samstipur	https://adrindia.org/node/97473
04 Nov'25	Sarai, Lalganj, Vaishali	https://adrindia.org/node/97488
04 Nov'25	Diamond Public School, Turkaulia, Harsiddhi	https://adrindia.org/node/97475 (including Signature Campaign)
04 Nov'25	Dhobaghatti Higher Secondary School, Hajipur	https://adrindia.org/node/97487
04 Nov'25	Rural area of Bodh Gaya, Gaya	https://adrindia.org/node/97474
04 Nov'25	Jhakiya, Sugauli, East Champaran	https://adrindia.org/node/97489 (including Signature Campaign)
07 Nov'25	Fatehpur Block, Bodh Gaya	https://adrindia.org/node/97490 (including Rally Campaign)
08 Nov'25	Gandhi Museum, Motihari, East Champaran	https://adrindia.org/node/97493 (including Signature Campaign)
08 Nov'25	Harsiddhi, East Champaran	https://adrindia.org/node/97492

Other Event Organised by Bihar Election Watch				
Event	Date	Location	Topic	Link
Seminar and Memorial Service	14 Sep'25	Gandhi Museum, Patna	Citizens and Right to Vote in Democracy" & Memorial Service for Late Prof. Jagdeep Singh Chhokar	https://adrindia.org/node/97296

Bihar Election Watch



- **Puducherry Election Watch**

Events Organised by Puducherry Election Watch				
Event	Date	Location	Topic	Link
Essay Writing Competition	27 Mar'26	Pondicherry University, Puducherry	Role of Youth in Democracy	https://adrindia.org/node/97635
Press Conference	30 Mar'26	Puducherry	ADR's report on background details of candidates contesting in Puducherry Assembly Elections 2026	https://adrindia.org/node/97627

Puducherry Election Watch



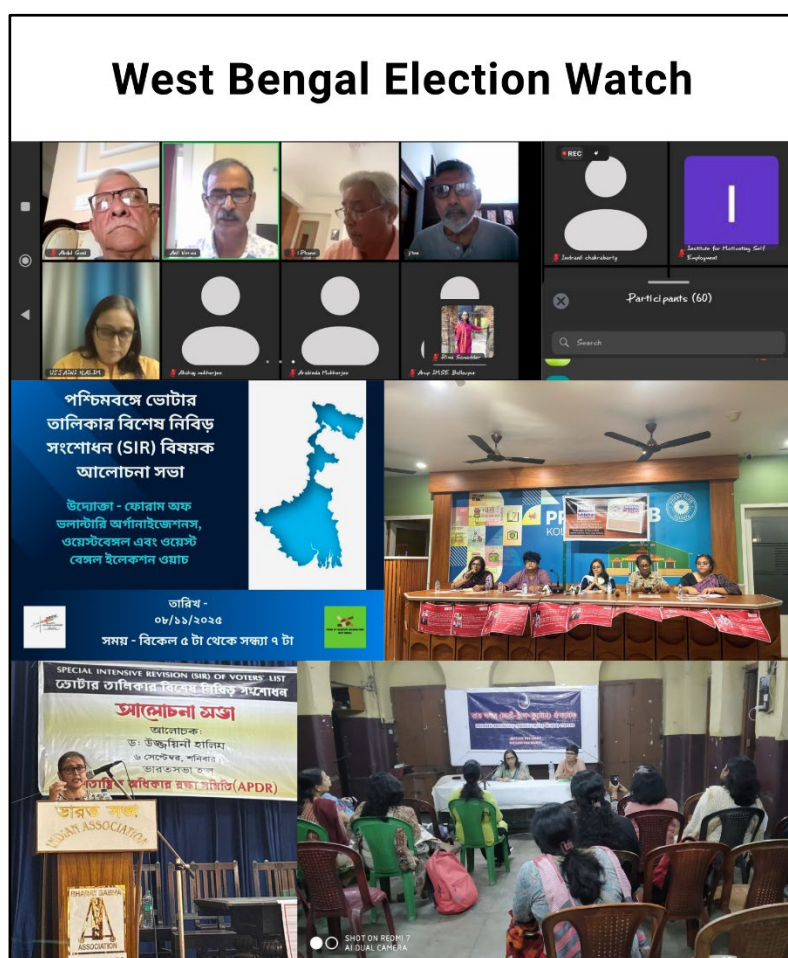
- **Tamil Nadu Election Watch**

Event Organised by Tamil Nadu Election Watch					
Event	Date	Location	Topic	Speaker from ADR	Link
Talk	25 Feb'26	Lady Doak College & Online, Madurai	Role of youth in strengthening Indian democracy	Maj Gen Anil Verma (Head of ADR)	https://adrindia.org/node/97629

- **West Bengal Election Watch**

Events Organised by West Bengal Election Watch				
Event	Date	Location	Topic	Link
Discussion Meeting	08 Nov'25	Online	Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the Electoral Roll in West Bengal	https://adrindia.org/node/97364
Press Conference: Release of women's manifesto	25 Mar'26	Press Club Kolkata, Kolkata	Release of women's manifesto	https://adrindia.org/node/97631

Discussion Meetings in which Dr Ujjaini Halim, ADR's West Bengal Election Watch Coordinator, was invited				
Organiser	Date	Location	Topic	Link
Association for Protection of Democratic Rights (APDR)	06 Sep'25	Bharat Sabha Hall, Kolkata	Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Voters' List	https://adrindia.org/node/100004
Reclaim the Night (Women-Trans-Queer) United	22 Sep'25	Kolkata	Special Intensive Revision (SIR)	https://adrindia.org/node/100005





Information Technology

About: Along the years, ADR has expanded its Information Technology to streamline its data analysis and multiplied its communication initiatives by incorporating cutting-edge technologies to not only disseminate the information, but also to establish a broad base for the outreach on the ground.

Activities of the IT Team:

1. **Application Programming Interfaces (APIs):** Ahead of every State Assembly Elections, ADR generates APIs for media houses/organisations for the dissemination of data related to the candidates' background in a secure and reliable manner. These APIs are used for querying candidates' information from a constituency of interest. Apart from their research, media houses display the details of the candidates on their websites in engaging ways to draw the attention of the voters, hence, facilitating our aim of encouraging citizens to be informed voters.
2. **Prof. Jagdeep Chhokar Memorial webpage:** To commemorate Late Professor Jagdeep Chhokar (Trustee & Founder Member of ADR), we created a webpage to highlight his life's journey, display list of tributes to him, and display archived list of articles authored by him. The webpage highlights his academic background, leadership roles, professional achievements, and his significant contribution to strengthening electoral transparency and democratic reforms in India. It serves as a comprehensive reference for visitors seeking information about his work and association with ADR.
3. **Server Monitoring and Maintenance:**
 - Monitoring server performance, uptime, and health
 - Applying software updates, patches, and security updates
 - Performing regular backups and ensuring data recovery processes are in place

4. **User Management:**

- Managing user accounts and permissions
- Monitoring user activity to ensure compliance with security requirements

5. **Security Management:**

- Conducting regular security audits and vulnerability assessments
- Implement security best practices such as input validation, encryption, and secure authentication mechanisms

6. **Server Configuration and Deployment:**

- Installing and configuring new virtual servers
- Managing server roles and services (example: web servers, database servers, mail servers)

7. **Disaster Recovery Planning:**

- Developing and maintaining disaster recovery plans
- Performing regular disaster recovery tests to ensure systems can be restored in the event of a failure

8. **Capacity Planning:**

- Assessing current server capacity and planning for future growth.

9. **Automation and Scripting:**

- Developing and maintaining scripts to automate routine tasks and improve efficiency

10. **Design and Architecture:**

- Design the overall architecture of the application, including database schema, user interface, and backend logic

11. **Programming and Development:**

- Write code in programming languages (e.g., PHP, jQuery, JavaScript) to implement application features and functionality

12. **Testing and Debugging:**

- Conduct integration testing to ensure different modules work together seamlessly
- Debug and troubleshoot issues found during testing phases

13. **Version Control and Collaboration:**

- Use version control systems (e.g., Git) to manage codebase changes
- Code review to ensure code quality and adherence to coding standards

14. **Performance Optimisation:**

- Monitoring resource usage and ensuring efficient allocation of resources
- Identify and address performance bottlenecks in the application code
- Optimize database queries, caching mechanisms, and frontend rendering for improved performance

15. **API Design and Development:**

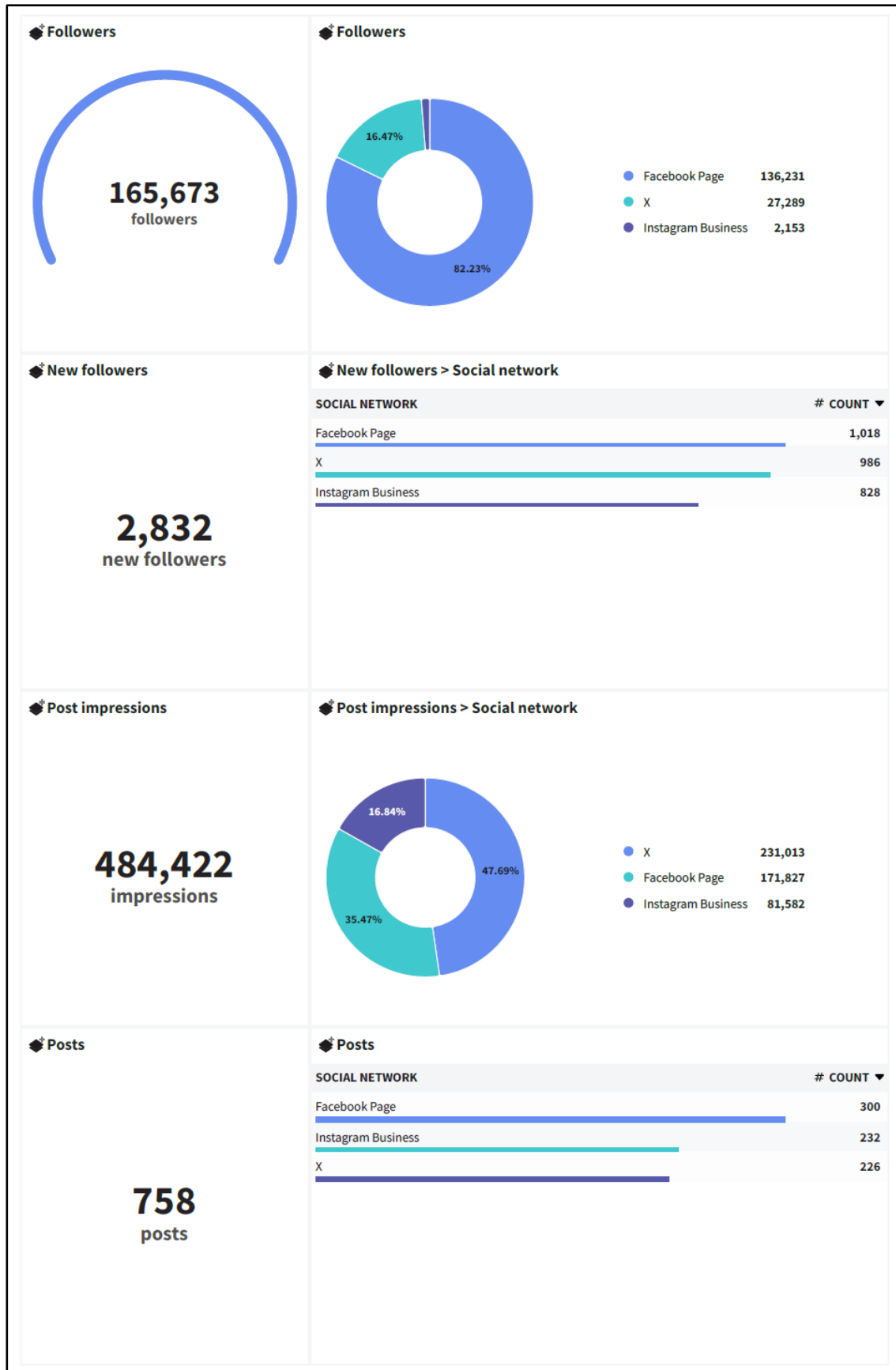
- Design and develop RESTful APIs to provide access to application functionality to external systems
- Define endpoints, request/response formats, and authentication mechanisms



Our Achievements

- **Supreme Court Judgment in Special Intensive Revision (SIR) case:** ADR was the first petitioner in the SIR case. ADR, along with other petitioners, **advocated for the inclusion of the Aadhaar Card as an identity document.** On 08th September 2025, **the Supreme Court directed the Election Commission to treat the Aadhaar Card as the 12th document,** which can be produced as proof of identity for the purpose of inclusion in the revised voters' list of Bihar.
- **Re-affirming ADR's mission of bringing transparency in electoral practices:** ADR is currently bringing transparency through its Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on Political Parties under RTI, PIL against amendments in the FCRA, PIL on voter discrepancies and mechanism of declaration of election result, PIL challenging the constitutional validity of the new law dealing with the appointment of Members of the Election Commission of India, intervention application on matter related to the disqualification of candidates on charges framed, and intervention application challenging Section 53(2) of the RP Act, 1951 read with Rule 11 of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 that outlines the procedure for declaring candidates elected in uncontested elections.
- **Income Tax Raids on Defaulting Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) in September 2025:** In the last 3-4 years, in addition to its analysis of National and Regional political parties' finances, ADR's Political Party Watch team initiated a detailed review of the status of submission of financial statements of RUPPs. **It found that certain defaulting RUPPs were not submitting their annual reports and were not contesting elections regularly while receiving large sums of funds each year.** The reports' findings were shared with the Election Commission of India (ECI). **Many RTI applications were filed at the state-level with Chief Electoral Officers to raise this matter, which led to show cause notices being issued to defaulting RUPPs.** These reports have also been covered by several media outlets, creating awareness among the public and generating momentum around this issue. **ECI has taken rigorous steps to delist inactive RUPPs over the last few years. The Income Tax authorities also took cognisance and conducted raids on the defaulting RUPPs.**

- **Mera Vote Mera Desh Campaign:** ADR, along with National Election Watch, managed to run a successful nationwide "Mera Vote Mera Desh" voter awareness campaign in several states. **Around 67 online and offline events were organized** in FY 2025-26.
- **Election Watch Reports:** Election Watch **released 25 reports, analysed 2,866 contesting candidates across 308 seats**, and covered the Rajya Sabha, one State Assembly Election, two Legislative Council Elections, and 10 Bye-elections in FY 2025-26.
- **Political Party Watch Reports:** Political Party Watch **released 11 reports and analysed 1,169 political parties** in FY 2025-26.
- **ADR's Media Coverage:** In FY 2025-26, ADR's data was cited/quoted in **over 2,132 news articles by regional, national, and international media**. ADR participated in **29 interviews, debates, and discussions**, which were broadcast on various national and regional news channels.
- **Website Traffic:** The **active users** of myneta.info was **25 million** in FY 2025-26. It increased during FY 2025-26 by **13.7%** in comparison to FY 2024-25. MyNeta website garnered **23 million new users** during FY 2025-26, which is more than the new users MyNeta website acquired in FY 2024-25 by **6.5%**.
The **active users** of ADR India website (adrindia.org) was **1.4 million** in FY 2025-26. It increased during FY 2025-26 by **314.3%** in comparison to FY 2024-25. ADR India website garnered **1.3 million new users** during FY 2025-26, which is more than the new users adrindia.org acquired in FY 2024-25 by **297.3%**.
- **Youth Engagement:** Under ADR's Youth Outreach Programme, 'Hum Badlenge Apna Bharat', ADR, with the National Election Watch, **reached out to thousands of youths through offline & online voter awareness activities**. **Around 3.9 million users from age group 18-34 accessed MyNeta.info website while 124K users from age group 18-34 accessed ADR website**.
- **Voters Reached:** During Bihar State Assembly Elections 2025 and ahead of the state assembly elections in April 2026, ADR & National Election Watch, via collaborations, media, and other voter awareness activities, **reached out to more than one crore voters**.
- **ADR's Social Media Presence:** In FY 2025-26, ADR received **7,55,009 impressions** with **1,74,737 followers** on Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook. The videos, promoting ADR & MyNeta.info, created by digital creators, garnered **over 20 million views**. The following are some statistics of Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook from FY 2025-26.



Post impressions

484,422

impressions

Post impressions > Social network

X	231,013
Facebook Page	171,827
Instagram Business	81,582

Posts

758

posts

Posts

SOCIAL NETWORK	#	COUNT
Facebook Page	300	
Instagram Business	232	
X	226	

About ADR

Our Trustees



Prof. Trilochan Sastry
Chairman, Founder Member & Trustee of
ADR
Professor, IIM Bangalore (Retd.)



Dr. Ajit Ranade
Founder Member & Trustee of ADR
Economist



Dr. Kiran B. Chhokar
Trustee of ADR
Programme Director, Higher Education,
Centre for Environment Education (CEE)



Advocate Kamini Jaiswal
Trustee of ADR
Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India
Secretary, Center for Public Interest Litigation



Mr. Jaskirat Singh
Trustee of ADR
Founder & CEO, Webrosoft Solutions INC



Dr. Vipul Mudgal
Trustee of ADR
Director of Common Cause



Prof. Sudarsan Padmanabhan
Trustee of ADR
Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras

Our Founders

Our Founders at the time of founding ADR in 1999 were:

1. Trilochan Sastry (Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad)
2. Jagdeep S. Chhokar (Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad)
3. Sunil Handa (Eklavya Education Foundation, Ahmedabad and visiting Professor, IIM, Ahmedabad)
4. Ajit Ranade (Professor, ICRIER, New Delhi)
5. Devanath Tirupati (Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad)
6. Brij Kothari (Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad)
7. Pankaj Chandra (Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad)
8. Rajesh Agarwal (Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad)
9. P.R. Shukla (Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad)
10. Prem Pangotra (Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad)
11. Sudarshan Khanna – (Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad)

Our Supporters

The various activities carried out in FY 2025-26 were made possible through the support of various individuals and organizations. We gratefully acknowledge the financial, material, moral, and technical support of innumerable well-wishers. It would be difficult to list all of them here, but even the smallest contribution is deeply appreciated by ADR.

ADR especially acknowledges the donation from the **Lal Family Foundation** and IIM Ahmedabad alumni network.

Appeal for Donations to ADR

Dear Supporters,

For over 25 years, ADR has strengthened Indian Democracy by bringing necessary electoral and political reforms such as disclosure of contesting candidate's background details, abrogation of Electoral Bonds Scheme, inclusion of NOTA on EVMs, disqualification of convicted MPs/MLAs, I.T Returns of political parties in public domain, bringing political parties under RTI, etc.

ADR is the first and only NGO to have paved the way for informed voting by empowering Indian voters with information on the contesting candidates and political parties.

Since the last few years, funding is increasingly becoming a challenge and it is getting difficult to sustain our operations and continue our awareness campaigns in the manner we used to. We now need your help in sustaining our vision of reducing money and muscle power in politics and elections, making the political parties transparent and accountable in their functioning, and thereby strengthening our great democracy.

The following are the impacts your donation will create:

1. Help ADR to continue its efforts on improving governance in India
2. Expand grassroots-level campaigning
3. Strengthen ADR's MyNeta website and its corresponding Android mobile application
4. Assist ADR in diversifying its data compilation, analysis, and dissemination methods
5. Compile and disseminating new reports by our teams
6. Strengthen ADR's legal advocacy measures

Please note that we are now open to accept donations through stocks, securities, and ESOPs.

For further details, kindly contact us at adr@adrindia.org.

We look forward to your support in making this possible.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Trilochan Sastry IIM Bangalore (Retd.) Chairman, Founder Member - NEW & ADR tsastry@gmail.com	Dr Ajit Ranade Economist Founder Member - NEW & ADR ajit.ranade@gmail.com	Maj. Gen. Anil Verma (Retd.) Head - NEW & ADR anilverma@adrindia.org
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Financial Status

Name of the Public Trust : ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORMS			REGISTRATION No. F/9339/AHMEDABAD (Amount in Rs.)		
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2026					
FUND & LIABILITIES	Rs.	Rs.	PROPERTY AND ASSETS	Rs.	Rs.
Trust Funds or Corpus : Corpus Fund		3,21,74,000.00	Immovable properties : <u>Movable properties:</u> <u>Local</u>		-
Contribution from Founder Members		6,000.00	Computer : (At Cost) -Op.	22,00,391.82	
Other Earmarked Funds : (Created under the provisions of the Trust Deed of Scheme or out of the income)		-	Add: Addition during the year	1,55,028.00	
			Less: written/disposed off during the year	(3,76,428.00)	19,78,991.82
Fixed Assets Fund - Local : Op.	33,99,276.80		Furniture & Fixtures : (At Cost) -Op.	2,95,517.00	
Add: Addition during the year	5,26,415.85		Add: Addition during the year	30,426.00	
Less: written/disposed off during the year	(8,02,438.00)	31,23,254.65	Less: written/disposed off during the year	(44,714.00)	2,81,229.00
Fixed Assets Fund - (FCRA) : Op.	26,48,333.78		Office Equipment : (At Cost) -Op.	5,99,362.98	
Less: written/disposed off during the year	(7,12,283.00)	19,36,050.78	Add: Addition during the year	3,40,961.85	
			Less: written/disposed off during the year	(96,249.00)	8,44,075.83
Liabilities :			Electrical Fittings : (At Cost) -Op.	3,04,005.00	
Sundry Creditors	95,243.00		Less: written/disposed off during the year	(2,85,047.00)	18,958.00
Staff Expenses Payable	1,89,843.00		<u>FCRA</u>		
Provisions for Expenses	5,413.84	2,90,499.84	Computer : (At Cost)-Op.	16,60,793.78	
Employees Gratuity Payable -Op.	45,87,834.00		Less: written/disposed off during the year	(6,22,250.00)	10,38,543.78
Add: Provision during the year	5,86,552.00	51,74,386.00	Furniture & Fixtures : (At Cost) -Op.	4,01,090.00	
			Less: written/disposed off during the year	(11,735.00)	3,89,355.00
<u>Grants (Pending utilisation)</u>			Office Equipment : (At Cost) -Op.	5,83,165.00	
University of Chicago-Received during the year	20,19,864.00		Less: written/disposed off during the year	(77,218.00)	5,05,947.00
Less: utilised during the year	(1,30,000.00)	18,89,864.00	Electrical Fittings : (At Cost) -Op.	3,285.00	
Grants received from International IDEA	4,78,100.00		Less: written/disposed off during the year	(1,080.00)	2,205.00
Less: utilised during the year	(4,78,100.00)	-	Investments :		
Income and expenditure Account :			In Fixed Deposit Account with		
Balance - Op.	91,82,106.61		HDFC Bank - General Fund	1,21,30,981.44	
Add: Surplus as per Income & Expenditure A/c	36,39,106.00	1,28,21,212.61	HDFC Bank - Gratuity Fund	52,61,802.14	
			HDFC Bank - Corpus Fund	3,22,89,314.00	4,96,82,097.58
			Advances :		
			To Project Advance	17,105.00	
			To Staff Advances	5,997.00	
			To Donation Receivable-Danamojo	2,89,734.00	
			To Donation Receivable-Razor Pay	1,75,485.48	
			To Prepaid Expenses	1,11,032.72	5,99,354.20
			To TDS Earlier Years	11,91,072.56	
			Less: Refund received during the year	(5,27,156.69)	
			Add: Addition during the year	2,90,813.76	9,54,729.63
			Security Deposits (Office) - Op.	5,60,000.00	
			Add: Addition during the year	1,40,000.00	
			Less: Security deposit received during the year	(4,20,000.00)	2,80,000.00
			(i) <u>Cash And Bank Balances-</u>		
			In Savings Account with :		
			HDFC Bank - 50100131483489	55,313.43	
			HDFC Bank - 16651450000035	7,01,622.44	
			HDFC FCRA -16651450000028	24,822.13	
			PNB S/B - 3093000117477093	23,675.90	
			SBI FCRA - 40053893403	29,086.14	8,34,520.04
			(ii) <u>Cash in hand - Local</u>		5,261.00
Total		5,74,15,267.88	Total		5,74,15,267.88

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2026

EXPENDITURE	Rs.	Rs.	INCOME	Rs.	Rs.
To Expenditure in respect of properties :		-	By Voluntary Contributions		
Rates, Taxes, Cessess - Muni. Tax			Donation Received-Local	2,47,74,118.00	
Repairs and maintenance - Building			Anonymous donation Received-Local	8,453.00	
Salaries			Donation Received-FCRA	8,73,295.94	2,56,55,866.94
Insurance					
Depreciation (by way of provision or adjustments)			By Grant Utilised- Annexure-3		6,08,100.00
Other expenses			By Interest on Bank Deposits		
			On FDRs Accounts	29,08,137.56	
To Remuneration (in the case of a math to the head of the math, including his house-hold expenditure, any)		-	On SB Accounts	80,894.00	29,89,031.56
			By Other Income		
To Income Applied to Fixed Assets		5,26,415.85	Annual Membership Fees	3,500.00	
			Member Entrance Fees	1,000.00	
To Expenditure on objects of the trust			Sale proceeds of Old assets	21,100.00	
(a) Religious	-		Interest on I.T. Refund	39,445.42	65,045.42
(b) Educational	-				
(c) Medical Relief	-				
(d) Relief of poverty	-				
(e) Other charitable objects:					
Electoral Reforms and Governance					
Administrative Activities Exp- Note 1	1,11,75,309.90				
Election Watch Activities Exp- Note 2	1,39,77,212.17	2,51,52,522.07			
By Excess of Income over Expenditure transferred to Balance Sheet		36,39,106.00			
Total		2,93,18,043.92	Total		2,93,18,043.92

National & State Election Watch Coordinators

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Press Coverage

Press Coverage



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Home > National > West Bengal Election Watch flags gaps...

West Bengal Election Watch flags gaps in 2025 electoral rolls revision process

KOLKATA: (Dec 5) The West Bengal Election Watch (WBEW) on Friday flagged gaps in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and said the present guidelines mark a departure from the revision carried out in 2001-02.

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India's revision of voter rolls could disenfranchise millions, critics warn

A hastily organized effort to revise voter rolls in the eastern state of Bihar has been marked by technical glitches, absent documents and widespread confusion.

July 31, 2025

CNBC TV18

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VIE

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Winning candidates spent ₹24 lakh on average in 2025 Bihar polls: ADR report



By PTI

February 3, 2026, 10:17:38 PM IST (Published)

THEWEEK

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Home > Wire Updates > NATIONAL

Winning candidates spent Rs 24 lakh on average in 2025 Bihar polls ADR report

PTI | Updated: February 03, 2026 21:17 IST

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40 regional parties declare Rs 2,532 cr income in FY 23-24, says ADR report

The total income of top 5 parties amounted to Rs 2105.82 crore or 83.17% of the total income of 40 parties analysed by the private election watchdog.



Shemin Joy | DECCAN

Last Updated : 10 September 2025, 19:47 IST

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National

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ETV Bharat / State

Nearly Every Third Candidate In Second Phase Of Bihar Polls Has A Criminal Record

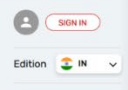
The ADR report shows a shocking precedence of criminal records of the candidates battling it out in the second phase of Bihar Assembly elections.



By ETV Bharat English Team

Published : November 11, 2025 at 1:44 PM IST

INDIA TODAY



News / Elections / Assembly / Bihar / 1 in 3 Bihar poll candidates face criminal charges, 40% are crorepatists: Report

1 in 3 Bihar poll candidates face criminal charges, 40% are crorepatists: Report



Shashi Bhushan

Patna, UPDATED: Oct 28, 2025 22:40 IST

Edited By: Priyanka Kumari

THE LEAFLET
CONSTITUTION FIRST

Bihar electoral rolls: Supreme Court flags confusion over new voters; most add-ons are new, says ECI; most excluded are Muslims, women, alleges ADR

Parmod Kumar

Published on: 07 Oct 2025, 9:29 pm

Association for Democratic Reforms and National Election Watch present



Scan the QR code to download the MyNeta App

To be more informed about your Neta and be a part of our #MeraVoteMeraDesh Campaign



Scan here to donate

Please Note: We are now open to accept donations through shares, bonds, stocks, and ESOPs. For further details, kindly contact us at adr@adrindia.org.

Connect with us:

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