



# COMMUNIST PARTY OF BANGLADESH

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PRESS RELEASE

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## Solidarity with India's Ongoing Mass Movement **Calls for the Protection of Voting and Democratic Rights and an End to State Repression**

Expressing solidarity with the ongoing mass movement in India, the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) has stated that the struggle to defend voting rights and democratic freedoms is not merely the concern of the people of India; it is also part of the global struggle for democracy, people's rights, and human dignity. Questioning violations of transparency and impartiality in an election commission's conduct and demanding appropriate remedies are legitimate and natural responses by citizens in any country. The CPB has expressed its sincere solidarity with the Indian people in their just struggle.

In a statement issued on Sunday, 11 October 2026, CPB President Kazi Sazzad Zahir and General Secretary Abdullah Al Kafee said that the protests and mass movements emerging in various parts of India over the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls carry significance for the people of all countries across the subcontinent.

Serious allegations have been raised that the process has resulted in the deletion of the names of large numbers of voters ahead of elections in several states, including Bihar and West Bengal. Opposition parties and protesters allege that the SIR process is being used to remove eligible voters from the electoral rolls and undermine the electoral process. Protesters have described this as 'vote theft'. Left-wing political parties and other opposition forces, student and youth organizations, young people, civil society groups, and farmers' and workers' organizations have mobilized in protest against the process.

Despite state repression, the movement against the disenfranchisement of eligible citizens in the name of electoral-roll revision and the undermining of electoral impartiality is increasingly developing into a broader mass movement centered on the defense of democratic rights.

The CPB leaders emphasized that democracy cannot be reduced to holding elections at regular intervals. Its foundations lie in the people's right to express their views freely, organize, assemble peacefully, engage in political activities independently, and exercise their voting rights without fear or intimidation. When the credibility and independence of constitutional bodies such as the Election Commission are undermined, the democratic system itself is placed in jeopardy. Bangladesh has repeatedly experienced such grave violations, and its people have responded each time by building movements of resistance.

The statement further expressed the CPB's deep concern over reports of obstruction, arrests, and the use of force against protesters. Peaceful protests cannot be suppressed, nor can a mass movement be brought to a halt by intimidating those who participate in it. The party stressed the urgent need to safeguard the people's right to protest and assemble, and to ensure that the allegations raised are addressed through a transparent, impartial, and credible process.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh believes that the true interests of the peoples of South Asia lie in establishing democracy, secularism, social justice, equality, and the sovereign rights of the people. Noting the historically strong bonds of friendship and solidarity between the peoples of India and Bangladesh, the CPB leaders expressed their hope that the people of India, in their just struggle to defend voting rights and democratic freedoms, would emerge victorious.

Issued by

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