



# LUCKIEST WHO GOT ELECTED FOR RAJYA SABHA IN 2024



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# CONTENTS

VOLUME : 02; ISSUE : 26; DECEMBER 22, 2024

## COVER STORY

**08** LUCKIEST WHO GOT ELECTED FOR RAJYA SABHA IN 2024





# “LITTLE ANGEL”



Respected Citizens of India, Yes, I enjoy all seasons in India. Similarly, I am really passionate about my profession. So I

dedicate myself to my work every day, not just Monday through Friday.

Believe me, I genuinely dedicate more hours on Saturdays and Sundays to my work, in addition to my vacation time. And I have been doing this since I was in class 4, and I started after I lost my father when I was four years old. My mother lost her street seller husband when she was 10 months pregnant.

Before attending Indian Institute of Mass Communication University in New Delhi, becoming a political journalist, and founding the world's only weekly political magazine- National Political Mirror, I sold groceries on the street at weekly markets. It all started in 2006 at the

weekly market in Nuagaon, which is on the border between Odisha and Jharkhand. Aside from my village Nuagaon, I began selling groceries in the weekly markets of Odisha and Jharkhand when I was in fourth grade and continued till 2006.

In 2006, an unexpected transformation took place in my life, and for that, I will always be in debt to God. I will share the story from 2006 in my next editorial for National Political Mirror, and this narrative will surely win many hearts. Believe me.

My then and present circumstances asked me to work every day; currently, I love to work every day, and I work more than sixteen hours each day regardless of what.

But, I will never advise anyone to work more than 16 hours per day, but if anyone wants to work, then I will support him or her, as if they work, then he or she will be one of the successful people who can

contribute to India's growth, be part of the growth story, and also fulfil India's 2047 dreams. So that all of their daily efforts can contribute to India reaching a \$35 trillion economy, which will aid in becoming a fully developed country before 2047.

Let's discuss a baby and why I sometimes refer to a bird as a baby when it visits my home balcony. If we had a daughter, she would have been four or five years old and named Miss Nikita because my lady of my heart, Miss Deepshikha Singh, when she was on this earth, we had decided that if we had a baby girl, we would name her Miss Nikita, which would begin with "N" because her and my mother's first words begin with "N." Her mother's name is Mrs. Nirmala Singh Rana, while mine is Mrs. Nirmala Sahoo.

This is why I refer to a bird as a Baby. In fact, I call all little girls "Babies" and sometimes greet them as "hello little angels." Whenever I see a Baby girl, I



*In the Virgin River series, actress Melinda Munroe meets Jack Sheridan for the first time in his bar.*

always say, "Hello Baby Girl" or "Little Angel," as I feel a connection, almost as if she were my daughter.

But it's alright, as I reassure myself that it's not going to happen anytime soon. Well, I love Miss Deepshikha Singh more than the depths of the Pacific Ocean.

After the departure of Miss Deepshikha Singh from this earth, I fully dedicated myself to my passion, which is political journalism. In fact, she understood me better than I knew myself regarding my aspirations.

After the departure of Miss Deepshikha Singh from this earth, I completely dedicated myself to my passion, political journalism; in fact, she knows me better than I know myself about my apsspion.

She suggested that I start a political magazine in 2013 and was the one who recommended the world's number one and most popular news title, National Political Mirror, and also provided financial support. I began the first edition of National Political Mirror in December 2013. So, December is very special for me and December always holds a place in my heart.

One of Miss Deepshikha Singh's specialities was her understanding of my childhood struggles. Regardless of what I had done or desired to do for my own and others' progress, she was always there to encourage me when I needed it. She was aware that I disliked staying in my comfort zone, so she consistently encouraged me and helped me complete stories that I chose for the National Political Mirror, even when they were tough.

So, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to say that I dislike comfort zones. For that reason, I always choose a tough theme for the cover page and a tough subject that needed a lot of research for the cover story.

Therefore, people who like to read about politics, especially National Political Mirror magazine, can do



so and stay up to date on what's happening in politics right now with their family and friends. Trust me, I will continue to choose a tough theme for the cover page and a tough subject for the cover article in each next edition of National Political Mirror.

Whether you believe it or not, it is true that I have an excellent imagination capacity for cover pages and developing ideas for any stories, as well as my editorials for the National Political Mirror, The Aviation Mirror, a fortnightly magazine on aviation and defence, and The Global Realty, a fortnightly magazine on real estate and infrastructure.

At the same time, I can't wait until I'm sixty years old to follow my passion and do something. So, I am doing it now through National Political Mirror, which is on its way to becoming a global brand.

It may take a few more months to achieve that status, but National Political Mirror will undoubtedly become one of the world's leading weekly political magazines, potentially surpassing TIME magazine to claim the top spot. So, just have faith in me.

National Political Mirror is on its way to becoming the world's number one political magazine, and in order to achieve that position, I am working

days and nights for National Political Mirror. You can see my work on the cover page of the world's only weekly political magazine, National Political Mirror, as well as previous and current cover pages and stories.

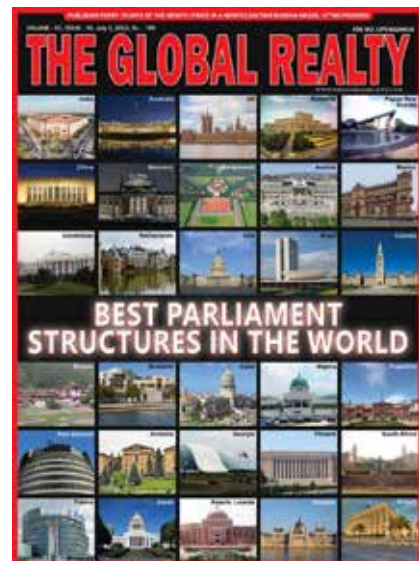
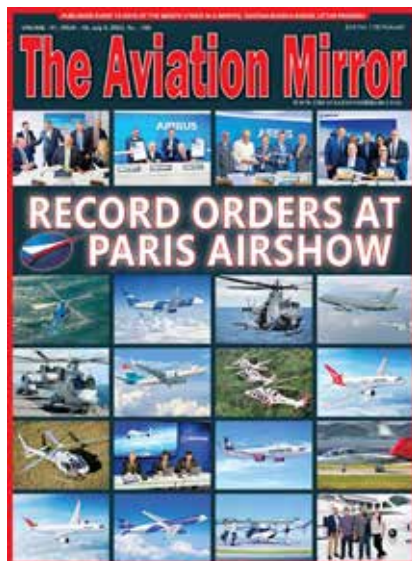
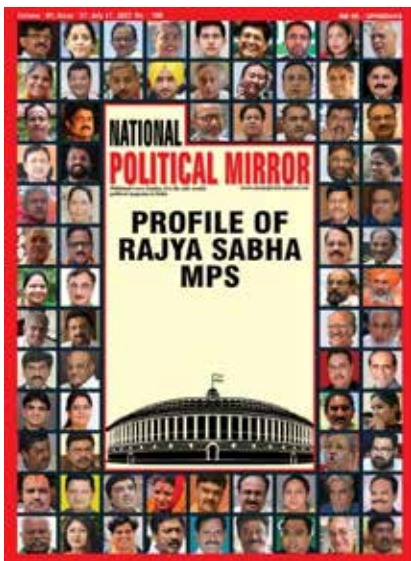
And I am doing this for the needy citizens of India, which is why I have not included any of my family members in the National Political Mirror.

This edition's cover page is unquestionably the best of any magazine in the world, as it centres on lawmakers who were elected and reelected to the Rajya Sabha in 2024. I also believe this is the best cover page of 2024, and I constantly strive to make an outstanding cover page for National Political Mirror with the assistance of a designer.

Regarding this cover page, I dedicated over 70 hours to develop ideas for it, created sketches on blank paper, and then sent those to the designer, who added the final touches to the cover page. I am confident that this cover page and this edition will be a hit with everyone.

I did not get enough sleep to complete this edition of National Political Mirror because I had only slept four to five hours the previous 20 nights due to a hectic schedule that included spending the day in





New Delhi at party headquarters and attending news conferences for two national political parties—the BJP and the Congress.

If there were no press conferences, I would meet with others about my story to gather some insights. After getting home, I would work until approximately 3 a.m., then go to bed and awaken about 8 a.m.

And, believe me, this schedule will continue as I work to build the number one brand in the world, and many people are liking my political stories and editorials, which encourages me to write more good stories and unique editorials, as well as to be more creative in the design of the cover page for National Political Mirror.

Many people are telling me these days that they are very happy to see and read exclusive political stories on National Political Mirror, which is truly beneficial for politics, political journalism, politicians, aspiring politicians, youth, and the upcoming generations.

I don't want to upset them, as many have begun to take an interest in political stories since a lot of people have stopped reading newspapers and watching news channels due to the lack of good stories, quality content, and positive news on those platforms.

I have dedicated over 80 hours to complete the writing of 86 profiles

for lawmakers who were elected, reelected, or nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 2024 from various states by respected political parties or nominated by the President of India.

I finished writing profiles while reading many small news portals and regional Hindi newspapers (online), as these days, the smaller platforms and local publications often provide superior journalism compared to the larger newspaper houses based in Noida, Delhi's ITO, or Mumbai.

And I began this unique concept of writing profiles of newly elected and reelected Rajya Sabha members in 2023, which was appreciated by many people. Therefore, I decided in 2023 that I should continue this unique concept each year.

This year-2024, on behalf of National Political Mirror, I have performed better than in the 2023 edition. And, I strongly believe that you will all love this edition, and in the next edition, you will see unique political stories and a captivating cover page. Believe me.

Before I conclude the editorial, I would like to share something about love and memories, so citizens, If you believe in love, have been through difficult times in the past, or have lost a loved one, you must watch the American series Virgin River, which I have recommended to many people who have liked it after seeing it.

Please have faith in me and watch American series -Virgin River; believe me, your life will be transformed, you will start living again, fall in love again, always help those in need, and start enjoying again, just like American series -Virgin River has changed mine. Trust me, I am suggesting this because I experienced pain after losing Miss Deepshikah Singh on June 18, 2020, as she passed away due to a heart attack.

So the American series Virgin River helped me recover from pain because I really believe in love, god, and strong personal characters, yet I'm still in pain, but this pain is only about love, love, love.

And I believe that pain is a very good gift from God because only when you are in pain can you feel or understand the pain of others, allowing you to help them to the best of your abilities.

So I stopped blaming God for giving me pain, and in fact, I am always thanking Him/Her for it because these days I constantly think about how to help needy people through the National Political Mirror.

*Sanjeeb Kumar Sahoo*

**Sanjeeb Kumar Sahoo**

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

FORMER STUDENT OF IIMC, DKL

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# LUCKIEST WHO GOT ELECTED FOR RAJYA SABHA IN 2024

BY SANJEEB KUMAR SAHOO

## Nadda enters Rajya Sabha for the third time

**J**.P. Nadda, the BJP national president, was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat in February 2024. This marks his third term as a member of the Rajya Sabha.

After that, he became the minister of health and family welfare under Narendra Modi-led NDA government, which was formed after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

He has also been appointed as the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha. Being the most senior member of his party and with his extensive experience in parliamentary affairs, Nadda has been appointed as the LoH, a role previously occupied by the late Arun Jaitley and Thawar Chand Gehlot.

A party leader stated that Nadda's "affability, his temperament, and his patience" will serve as valuable "assets" in assisting the BJP in managing challenging situations in the House that necessitate dialogue between the government and the opposition.

Nadda began his political career as a member of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the students' wing of the party's ideological pillar, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

He served in Himachal Pradesh's legislative assembly for three terms, beginning in 1993. In April



2012, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha representing his state.

In 2014, following the BJP's rise to power at the Centre, he was appointed Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, and he was re-nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 2018.

## Following Indira Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi elected to Rajya Sabha from Gandhi family

**F**ormer Congress president Sonia Gandhi was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan in 2024. She becomes the second member of the Gandhi family to join the Rajya Sabha, following in the footsteps of former prime minister Indira Gandhi, who served in the Upper House from August 1964 to February 1967.

On the other hand, in 2024, Congress re-elected her as Chairperson of the Parliamentary Party (CPP), which includes all Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members. Sonia Gandhi became an MP for the first time in 1999, after becoming head of the Congress. She declared during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections that it would be her final participation in the general





elections. The 77-year-old leader is embarking on his first term in the Upper House, having previously served five terms in the Lok Sabha.

Meanwhile, she is the longest-serving president of the Indian National Congress (INC or Congress). She became party leader in 1998, seven years after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, her husband and a former Prime Minister of India, and served for twenty-two years, retiring in 2017. She returned to the presidency in 2019 and served for another three years.

After the assassination of her husband, Congress officials invited Gandhi to lead the party, but she declined. She accepted to enter politics in 1997 after much pleading from the party, and the following year, she was nominated for party president.

The 77-year-old Congress leader has never been defeated in a Lok Sabha election. She was born on December 9, 1946 in Lusiana, Vicenza, Italy, and married Rajiv Gandhi, the son of then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, on February 25, 1968. She started active in politics only in 1998, however she accompanied her husband Rajiv Gandhi when he became Prime Minister following his mother's assassination in 1984.

After the assassination of her husband Rajiv Gandhi, Congress leaders invited Sonia Gandhi to lead the party, but she declined. She accepted to enter politics in 1997 after much pleading from the party, and the following year, she was nominated for party president.

Under her leadership, the Congress won the 2004 Lok Sabha polls, and party leaders requested Sonia Gandhi to lead the new alliance, the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), and become Prime Minister, which was formed after the 2014 Lok Sabha results. However, Sonia Gandhi declined to become Prime Minister following the 2004 victory.

She accepted the role of chairperson for the National Advisory Council (NAC), an advisory body established by the first United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government in 2004 to advise the Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh.

Between 2004 and 2014, Sonia Gandhi led the advisory councils responsible for the creation and execution of various rights-based development and welfare initiatives, including the Right to Information, Food Security Bill, and MGNREGA. And because of Sonia Gandhi, many poor kids can now go to schools like the Modern School on Barakhamba Road in New Delhi thanks to the RTE act. Therefore, Sonia Gandhi deserves our gratitude.

## Engineer becomes Rajya Sabha MP for second time

**A**n engineer turned politician, the senior leader of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Sanjay Singh, was re-elected to the Rajya Sabha from Delhi in 2024. In 2018, he was first elected to the Upper House as a Member of Parliament.



Singh, an AAP leader born in Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh, earned a diploma in mining engineering from the Orissa School of Mining Engineering in Keonjhar, Odisha.

After being elected to the Rajya Sabha, Singh has been named chairperson of the AAP Parliamentary Party. In his first time as an MP, Sanjay Singh was the Leader of the AAP in the Rajya Sabha. The AAP has 10 MPs in the Rajya Sabha, making it the fourth biggest party there. It also has 3 MPs in the Lok Sabha.

He worked with Arvind Kejriwal on several projects, including the Right to Information campaign in 2006 and the IAC movement led by social activist Anna Hazare. He is also a founding member of the Aam Aadmi Party.

Before he joined Arvind Kejriwal and the Aam Aadmi Party, Singh formed the Azad Samaj Seva Samiti in 1994 in Lucknow. He claims to have worked to provide employment opportunities to the poor.

## A former ICAI president returns to Upper House

**A**am Aadmi Party leader Narain Dass Gupta, popularly known as ND Gupta, was re-elected to the Rajya Sabha from Delhi in 2024. Meanwhile, as a practicing chartered accountant and former president of the ICAI (Institute of Chartered Accountants of India), he was elected for the first time to the Upper



House in 2018.

N D Gupta was born on October 16, 1945, as the third of seven children to Fimo Devi and Rameshwar Dass Gupta. His father, Rameshwar Dass Gupta, was the Sarpanch of Guhna Village in Haryana's Sonipat District.

## Ghaziabad to Rajya Sabha

**S**wati Maliwal, the leader of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Delhi in 2024. Prior to that, she served as the chairperson of the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) from 2015 until 2024. Maliwal was born in Ghaziabad, which is located in the state of Uttar Pradesh.



Before joining politics and the Aam Aadmi Party, she participated in the 2011 Indian anti-corruption movement led by social activist Anna Hazare. It is said that Maliwal was raised by a single mother after being born in Ghaziabad in 1984. She went to Amity International School and earned a bachelor's degree in information technology from the JSS Academy of Technical Education.

In 2024, after being elected to the Rajya Sabha, she made headlines for claiming on May 13, 2024, that she was assaulted by Bibhav Kumar, personal assistant to then-Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal, at the Chief Minister's residence.

## BJP rewarded Dorjee Tshering Lepcha for his contribution to party

**D**orjee Tshering Lepcha, a BJP candidate, won Sikkim's lone Rajya Sabha seat uncontested in 2024. Lepcha, the only person to file a nomination for the election, was declared elected after his papers were scrutinised and



found to be in order.

He was elected to the Sikkim Legislative Assembly in 2014 and 2019 as the Sikkim Democratic Front's candidate from the Gnathang Machong constituency, but later joined the Bharatiya Janata Party. From 2014 to 2019, he served as the minister of Sikkim Public Works (Buildings and Housing) and Transport in Pawan Chamling's fifth ministry.

In Sikkim's 32-member assembly, SKM has 19 members, BJP has 12, and SDF has one. The BJP did not win any seats in the 2024 assembly elections, where the SKM emerged victorious.

Lepcha, along with nine SDF MLAs, switched to the BJP in 2019, making it the second largest party in the assembly overnight. Later, the BJP won by-elections for two seats, bringing its total to twelve. Lepcha's Rajya Sabha berth is viewed as a reward for his contributions to the BJP's rise to prominence in the Himalayan state.

## YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's relative elected to Rajya Sabha

YV Subba Reddy, a close relative of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and a leader of the Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP), was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Andhra Pradesh in 2024. He has played an important role in party affairs. He is from Prakasam district and won the Ongole Lok Sabha seat in 2014. In 2019, YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy denied him the MP seat and instead appointed him chairman of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD).



He was born in Medarametla, Prakasam District, to Yerram Chinna Poli Reddy and Yerram Pitchamma. He is married to Swarnalatha Reddy, the younger sister of Ms Y. S. Vijayamma (mother of Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy).

## A civil contractor entered Rajya Sabha

**A** civil contractor turned politician, Meda Raghunath Reddy, was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Andhra Pradesh. On 8 February





2024, the Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) announced him as their Rajya Sabha candidate from Andhra Pradesh; he was subsequently elected to Rajya Sabha

Meda Raghunath Reddy is the brother of former MLA from Rajampet, Meda Mallikharjuna

Reddy. While Mallikharjun has been in active politics for the past several years, Raghunath made his entry into politics as a Rajya Sabha member from YSRCP.

Meda Raghunath Reddy finished his education in Tanguturu and joined the construction industry as a contractor in Bengaluru at the age of twenty. He was appointed director of MRKR Constructions in 2006 and is now a prominent businessman.

## Golla Babu Rao, an ardent follower of Rajasekhara Reddy, elected to Rajya Sabha

**G**olla Babu Rao, an ardent follower of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister late YS Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR), was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Andhra Pradesh in 2024. On February 20, 2024, he was unanimously elected to the Rajya Sabha as a YSR Congress Party candidate, alongside Y. V. Subba Reddy and Meda Raghunath Reddy.



Babu Rao began his political career in 2009 as a member of the Aandhra Pradesh Assembly representing Payakaraopeta, a reserved constituency in Visakhapatnam district. Golla Babu Rao also lost a close friend, P. Subramanyam, a 1983 batch IAS officer, in the same helicopter crash as the late Chief Minister YSR.

In January 2024, Babu Rao was removed from the MLA list for the 2024 Assembly election, but he was later given the opportunity to run in the Rajya Sabha elections.

Before joining politics, Golla Babu Rao started his professional career as an APPSC Group I officer in

1986. He served in this capacity until his voluntary retirement in 2009, during which time he held the position of Joint Commissioner of Panchayat Raj in Hyderabad.

## A dedicated BJP worker reached Rajay Sabah

**D**r. Dharmshila Gupta, the state president of Bihar BJP Mahila Morcha, was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Bihar in 2024. She began her journey in politics as a dedicated BJP worker. In February 2024, Gupta received a nomination from the Bharatiya Janata Party and was elected unopposed as a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha, succeeding late Sushil Modi from Bihar.



She contested in the Darbhanga Municipal Corporation election for the first time and won as a ward councillor. After that, when she ran in the mayoral elections, she lost to the JDU-supported candidate Anjum Ara.

She was born in Darbhanga, Bihar, in 1969. In the meantime, Dharmshila Gupta does not come from a prominent political family. The party's decision to send her to the Rajya Sabha appears to be a strategic move aimed at appealing to the women voters across Mithila.

Conversely, Dr. Dharmshila Gupta hails from the Vaishya community. Sending her to the Rajya Sabha appears to be a strategic move aimed at appealing to the Vaishya voters of Mithila. To make its point, BJP will tell people that it can send any worker to the Rajya Sabha.

## Controversial politician enters Rajya Sabha

**B**him Singh Chandravanshi, Bihar's former minister and current state vice president, was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Bihar in 2024. He was an active student leader at Patna University. During this time, he became acquainted with former Bihar Chief Minister Karpuri Thakur and gained close to Lalu Prasad Yadav, Ram Vilas Paswan, and Nitish



Kumar.

He served as General Secretary of the Janata Dal after its foundation. He also co-founded the Samata Party, alongside Nitish Kumar. Later, he joined the RJD and served as the party's state general secretary. He switched to the JDU in 2009 before joining the BJP in 2015.

During his tenure as the Panchayati Raj and Rural Works Minister in Nitish Kumar's government in 2013, he sparked controversy by claiming that those who joined the army either died or became martyrs.

Later, the minister said sorry after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar asked the Rural Minister to take back what he said. He said sorry for what he said and blamed the media for the uproar.

## Nitish's close aide, Sanjay Jha enters Rajya Sabha

**T**he Janata Dal (United) leader was elected to the party's Rajya Sabha in 2024. After being elected to the Rajya Sabha from Bihar, Jha, a postgraduate from Jawaharlal Nehru University, was appointed as the JDU's Rajya Sabha leader and working president.



Jha, who began his political journey with the BJP, was a trusted associate of the late BJP leader Arun Jaitley. Following the JD(U)-BJP takeover in Bihar in November 2005, Jha served as an important connection between Nitish and Jaitley. He quickly gained the trust of Bihar's chief minister. Jha supported Nitish above other competing interests and eventually joined the JD(U) in July 2012.

Multiple media reports indicate that he is recognised as a close and highly trusted leader of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. He has managed essential portfolios such as the Water Resources Department (WRD) and the Information and Public

Relations Department (IPRD) within the Bihar Government.

Jha has served as the Water Resources Minister for the Bihar Government on three occasions: from June 2, 2019, to November 16, 2020; from February 9, 2021, to August 9, 2022; and from August 16, 2022, to January 28, 2024. Jha was born on December 1, 1967, in Araria Sangram village, Jhanjharpur block, Madhubani district.

## Dominant Bhumihar leader returns to Rajya Sabha

**A**khilesh Prasad Singh, president of the Bihar Congress, has been reelected to the Rajya Sabha from Bihar in 2024, after being elected for the first time in 2018. Singh, the dominant Bhumihar leader, began his political career in the RJD and served as Minister of State for Food and Consumer Affairs in the UPA-I government from 2004 to 2009.



However, he was inducted into Congress in 2010 after formally requesting that then-Congress president Sonia Gandhi induct him and his supporters into the party fold ahead of the assembly elections, claiming that he could play a pivotal role in ensuring the victory of Congress nominees in Gaya, Jehanabad, Arwal, and Bhojpur districts, where his caste is well represented.

Singh, who is currently a member of the Rajya Sabha, was re-elected unopposed in 2024. He was also a member of the Bihar Assembly from the Arwal seat from 2000 to 2004, and he served as a cabinet minister. In 2004, he was elected to the Lok Sabha on the RJD ticket from Motihari and served as Union Minister in Dr Manmohan Singh's cabinet.

However, he lost two successive Lok Sabha elections on a Congress ticket, in 2014 and 2019, from the Purvi Champaran and Muzaffarpur constituencies. In the 2015 Assembly elections, he lost his Tarari seat to Sudama Prasad of the CPI (ML).



## Haryana enters Rajya Sabha through Bihar

**R**JD leader and former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav's political advisor Sanjay Yadav has received a Rajya Sabha nomination from Bihar for 2024, as he is elected to the Upper House on an RJD ticket.



Sanjay Yadav, originally from Mahendragarh, Haryana, holds a postgraduate degree in computer science as well as an MBA. Sanjay Yadav is the second individual from Mahendragarh district to achieve the status of a Rajya Sabha member. Previously, the late Rao Mansingh, who lived in Neerpur, served as a member of the Rajya Sabha.

According to media reports, Sanjay Yadav met Tejashwi Yadav for the first time while working at a computer company in Delhi in 2012. Sanjay Yadav has become the third leader from the Ahirwal political scene in the district to reach the Rajya Sabha.

First, Rao Man Singh, who was born in Neerpur and replaced Chaudhary Devi Lal as Haryana's Rajya Sabha MP, was elected on an INLD ticket. Then, Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav, who was born in Rewari, was elected on a BJP ticket from Rajasthan. Finally, Sanjay Yadav, who was born in Nangal Sirohi and lives in Bihar, was elected on an RJD ticket from Bihar.

## A professor turned politician re-enters Rajya Sabha

**M**anoj Jha, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and party spokesperson, has been elected to the Rajya Sabha from Bihar for a second consecutive term in 2024. On March 15, 2018, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha for the first



time, unopposed from Bihar.

Before he got into politics, he was a professor at the University of Delhi's Department of Social Work and, from 2014 to 2017, its head. And, prior to joining the Delhi School of Social Work, he was a lecturer in the Department of Social Work at Jamia Millia Islamia from 1994 till 2002.

Jha, who earned his master's degree from Delhi University's Department of Social Work in 1992 and his PhD in 2000, also served as Tejashwi Yadav's principal political adviser.

## After father, son enters Rajya Sabha

**D**evendra Pratap Singh, of the Bharatiya Janata Party, was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Chhattisgarh in 2024. Singh is a scion of Raigarh's former Gond tribal royal dynasty and an active Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh member.



Devendra was born on May 2, 1975, to Raja Surendra Kumar Singh of the Gond dynasty. He finished school at Rajkumar College, Raipur, and then got into St. Stephen's College, Delhi, University of Delhi, where he studied history for his BA and MA.

Raja Devendra Pratap Singh's father, Surendra Pratap, was a politician who served as MLA from Lailunga and Rajya Sabha MP from Chhattisgarh. His uncle, Raja Lalitkumar Singh, was the last Raja of Raigarh State. His great grandpa, Raja Chakradhar Singh, was a supporter of traditional dance and music.

Raja Devendra Pratap Singh has a long history in politics and has held important roles in the BJP in the past. In 2005–2006, he was the state secretary of the SC/ST Morcha. In 2008, he was a special invitee member. In 2011–12, he was the district head of the SC/ST Morcha. Finally, he was a national executive member of the BJP's SC/ST Morcha. In addition, he has served as a district panchayat member and on the railway advisory council.

## Diamond merchant enters Rajay Sabha

**G**ovindbhai Laljibhai Dholakia—or 'Kaka' (uncle), a Surat diamond merchant noted for his rags-to-riches story—was elected to Rajay Sabah from Gujarat on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ticket in 2024. He is the founder and chairman of Shree Ramkrishna Exports Private Limited, which is one of the largest diamond export companies in Surat.



Dholakia was born into a farming family in the small village of Dudhala in the Amreli district of Gujarat. At the age of 17, he left his village for Surat, India's diamond market, in search of better possibilities. Dholakia began his work as a diamond cutter and polisher, motivated by his determination.

He is the founder and chairman of Shree Ramkrishna Exports Private Limited, which is one of the largest diamond export companies in Surat.

Some people also know him for the charitable work he does. He runs a "non-profit" called "Shree Ramkrishna Welfare Trust." The trust, which was established in 1988, mainly works in the domain of health. Meanwhile, in 2011, Govind Dholakia donated Rs 11 crore for the construction of the Ram Temple. He has been with the RSS for a long time.

## A loyal member of BJP since 1992, enters Rajya Sabha

**M**ayank Nayak, the president of the OBC Morcha of Gujarat BJP and a loyal member of the BJP since 1992, was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat in 2024. Nayak hails from Mehsana district's Lakhvad village, where he began his career in electoral politics. A diploma holder in mechanical engineering, he had also been elected as a delegate of Mehsana Taluka



Panchayat from Lakhvad.

Nayak is currently in charge of the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency, which is held by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in addition to serving as the state BPP OBC Morcha leader. He formerly served as the party's in-charge of the Patan district and Lok Sabha constituency.

## Once revolted against BJP, but now enters Rajya Sabha

**T**he BJP surprised everyone by nominating a 48-year-old surgeon Dr. Jashvantsinh Parmar from Godhra as its Rajya Sabha candidate, and he was subsequently elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha in 2024.



Dr. Jashvantsinh Parmar is a veteran of the party who ran as a rebel independent candidate in the 2017 assembly elections. Parmar has been active in the party for three decades. Parmar studied medicine at B J Medical College in Ahmedabad and earned an MS in general surgery in 2000.

Parmar's parents were also affiliated to the BJP. Salamsinh, his father, was a school principal, BJP activist, and twice-elected taluka panchayat member. Lalitaben, Parmar's mother, was elected to the district panchayat three times and also served as the chairperson of the panchayat's health committee.

After being denied a ticket, Parmar ran as an independent candidate in the 2017 assembly elections. The party fielded C. K. Raulji after he moved from the Congress to the BJP. Raulji won by a narrow margin of 258 votes, while Parmar received 18,856 votes.

Previously, Gopalsinh Solanki, a distinguished lawyer from Godhra, was elected to the Rajya Sabha by the BJP for two consecutive terms.

## Former Haryana BJP chief elected to Rajya Sabha

**S**ubhash Barala, the former chief of the BJP in Haryana, has been elected to the sole Rajya Sabha seat from the state in 2024. Barala, who





led the state unit from December 2014 to July 2020, is a close associate of Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.

Barala, a Jat leader and former Haryana BJP president from December 2014 to July 2020, lost the October 2019 assembly election in Fatehabad's Tohana constituency by more than 52,000 votes. Barala was born in Dangra village, Tohana Tehsil. He earned a Diploma in Civil Engineering from HMS Polytechnic in Bengaluru.

## Former Congress leader enters Rajya Sabha

**B**JP leader Harsh Mahajan was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Himachal Pradesh through a draw of lots, following reports of cross-voting by six Congress MLAs. As a result of this cross-voting, both Mahajan and Congress' Abhishek Manu Singhvi received 34 votes each, but Mahajan was ultimately declared the winner by draw of lots.



Mahajan was a close confidant of former Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh. Mahajan left the Congress just before the 2022 Assembly elections due to disputes with the state leadership and joined the BJP. He was unable to make much of an influence as the Congress gained the Chamba seat. The BJP nominated him for the sole Rajya Sabha seat, and he turned the tables on the Congress.

Mahajan was born in Chamba on December 12, 1955, and is the son of Desh Raj Mahajan, a former Assembly Speaker and minister. Mahajan, a graduate in business administration, held the position of president of the Pradesh Youth Congress. He was initially elected to the Himachal Pradesh Assembly representing Chamba in 1993. Subsequently, he achieved victory in the Assembly elections in both 1998 and 2003.

## Hussain asked for an assembly seat once but re-elected to Rajya Sabha

**S**yed Naseer Hussain of Congress was re-elected to the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka in 2024. Notably, when he sought a Congress ticket to run for the Assembly elections in Ballari city in 2018, he was instead granted a Rajya Sabha ticket and successfully elected to the Upper House that same year.



Hussain hails from Ballari, a district that has faced challenges and gained attention during the height of the illegal mining ore scandal, located near the border of Andhra Pradesh. After finishing school in Ballari, he went to Mysore to continue his education.

He began politics through the student movement, becoming president of the St. Philomena's College Student Union and eventually general secretary of the Mysore City Students Action Committee. He then moved to Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), where he served as secretary, vice-president, and president of the students' union.

Hussain then served as the national secretary of the Indian Youth Congress from 2001 to 2003. During this time, he met Oscar Fernandes, a senior leader in the Congress party. Through Fernandes, he met other senior party leaders and became friendly with them, which gave him much-needed access to the people in power.

Hussain earned Mallikarjun Kharge's trust and is now one of four coordinators assigned to the national president's office, along with Gurudeep Sappal, Gaurav Pandhi, and Pranav Jha. Hussain is the Congress whip in the Rajya Sabha, while Kharge is the upper house's opposition leader.

## After losing the 2022 elections, Ajay Maken wins in 2024

**A**jay Maken, Treasurer of the All India Congress Committee (KPCC), has won a Rajya Sabha seat from Karnataka in the 2024 elections held



in Bengaluru after losing in the 2022 elections.

At the same time, Maken of the Congress party lost to Kartikeya Sharma, an independent candidate backed by the BJP, despite the fact that Maken's party had enough votes to elect him to the Rajya Sabha from Haryana in 2022.

A two-time member of the Lok Sabha and three-time MLA in the Delhi Legislative Assembly, previously serving as a minister in the cabinet of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and also in the cabinet of Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit. He also served as the President of the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee.

Ajay Maken's uncle, Lalit Maken, was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1984 but was slain in 1985 for his claimed involvement in the November 1984 massacre of Sikhs in Delhi.

Interestingly, at the state level, he was Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly (2003-04) at the age of 39. Maken was the youngest Speaker in the country, a Cabinet Minister of Power, Transport, and Tourism (2001-2003) at the age of 37, the youngest at the time, and Parliamentary Secretary to the Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit (1998-2001).

Maken was the first NSUI candidate in a direct election to be elected President of Delhi University Students Union (DUSU) in 1985, as well as the first B.Sc. Chemistry (Hons.) final year student in this position.

## Congress leader from Ganguru elected to Rajya Sabha again

**G**anguru - based Congress leader G. C. Chandrashekhar was elected to the Rajya Sabha for the second time for Karnataka in 2024. First time, he was elected in 2018. Chandrashekhar is from Ganguru, a tiny village in Hassan District, Karnataka.

Chandrashekhar is presently serving as the President of the Karnataka



Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) and has held the position of Chairman of the Karnataka Urban Water Supply Board.

Before that, he held the position of General Secretary and spokesperson for the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee. He has additionally held the position of political secretary to G. Parameshwara, who is the President of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee. He has additionally held the position of Chairman for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

## Dedicated BJP member elected to Rajya Sabha

**F**ormer MLC and staunch local BJP member Narayana Bhandage elected to the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka in 2024. He served as an MLC from 2010 to 2016.

Bhandage, 73, has previously worked for the RSS and been a VHP leader. He also held several roles in the BJP Karnataka organisation, including Bagalkot District General Secretary, Bagalkot District President, Bijapur Yuva Morcha President, State BJP Secretary, and State BJP Vice President.



## L Murugan elected to Rajya Sabha for second time from MP

**T**he BJP surprised everyone by naming Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L Murugan as its Rajya Sabha nominee for the second time from Madhya Pradesh. Later, Murugan was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh.

Murugan, the Union Minister of State for



Information and Broadcasting, was elected to the Rajya Sabha for the first time from Madhya Pradesh in 2021. Murugan, originally from the Namakkal district in the Kongu region of Tamil Nadu, has held several roles within the RSS and served as the vice-chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes.

In 2020, he was appointed as the state president of the BJP's Tamil Nadu unit. Despite his loss in the 2021 assembly election from the Dharapuram constituency, the BJP secured victories in four other places during the polls.

Interestingly, in the 2011 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, he ran for the Rasipuram constituency on a BJP ticket and received barely 1800 votes. He was in charge of Kerala for some time.

## Valmiki Mutt heads elected to Rajya Sabha

Ujjain-based Valmiki mutt's head Umesh Nath Maharaj was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh on a BJP ticket in 2024. He is referred to be a 'bal yogi', or someone who practiced sanyas as a youngster, and is a member of the Valmikis group, which is Scheduled Caste.



Before nominating him, prominent BJP officials had already met with Umesh Nath Maharaj at his ashram on the banks of the Shipra River in Ujjain. Sending him to the Rajya Sabha is part of the BJP's outreach to the Scheduled Castes.

## A woman Jat leader gets Rajya Sabha Seat as reward

A Jat leader hails from Hoshangabad, and Madhya Pradesh BJP Mahila Morcha chief Maya Naroliya was elected to the Rajya Sabha from the state in 2024. Maya Naroliya received Rajya Sabha nominations as a reward for her crucial contribution in obtaining women's votes for the party in the 2023 assembly elections.

She also served as President of the Narmadapuram Municipality. Maya Narolia joined the BJP following its inception in 1980; she also worked as a social worker in Hoshangabad (Narmadapuram).

She was involved in numerous social organisations, and she also founded Navdhara Mahila Mandal, a nonprofit organisation that managed a ration shop. She served as the city's BJP Mahila Morcha President twice, as well as the District Mahila Morcha President and Mandi member. She was chosen as a councillor twice by the voters and later joined the party's state working committee.



## A village boy entered Rajya Sabha

Bansi Lal Gurjar, hailing from Lalghati village in Mandsaur, was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh in 2024 as a member of the BJP. Gurjar serves as the National Vice President of the BJP Kisan Morcha and holds the position of Director at HUDCO.



Sixty years old Gurjar has dedicated years to various roles within the organisation. He has served as the District President of BJP, the State General Secretary, and the State President of BJP Kisan Morcha. Besides this, he has worked for Kisan Morcha for a long time.

## Ashok Singh won Rajya Sabha after three Lok Sabha losses

Ashok Singh, a top Gwalior-based Congress leader, was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh in 2024. Singh has run for





three Lok Sabha elections, losing all three by very small margins., and has a strong political base in the Gwalior-Chambal region.

Ashok Singh unsuccessfully contested the last three Lok Sabha elections against the BJP: in 2009, 2014, and 2019. Despite three straight defeats, the Congress has

nominated him for the Rajya Sabha. Singh, who is reported to have some influence among voters in the Gwalior-Chambal region, has been an outspoken critic of Jyotiraditya Scindia, who quit the Congress to join the BJP.

Ashok Singh's first political appointment came during the Kamal Nath administration, when he was named Apex Bank administrator. His father, Rajendra Singh, entered politics in 1971, eventually becoming a legislator and Public Works Minister in Shyama Charan Shukla's administration.

## Former Kothrud MLA gets a seat in Rajya Sabha

**M**egha Kulkarni, a leader of the BJP and a former MLA from Kothrud in Pune, was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Maharashtra in 2024. Megha Kulkarni is presently the national vice-president of the BJP women's wing. She represents the Kothrud Assembly constituency from 2014 to 2019.



She was denied a party ticket in the 2019 elections to make way for then-Maharashtra BJP head Chandrakant Patil. Megha Kulkarni, also an educationist, had taken a contrarian view to Patil and former Pune mayor Murlidhar Mohol on the Balbharti-Paud Road link project, which faced opposition from some residents due to its partial impact on Vetar Tekdi.

## Gopchade, who was in Ayodhya for Karseva in 1992, is now in Rajya Sabha

**O**n December 6, 1992, Ajit Gopchade, 22, was seen with a group of youngsters standing on the dome of the Babri Mosque in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya, just before it was demolished by a mob. Gopchade, currently 52, was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Maharashtra on a BJP ticket in 2024.



He admitted to being in the viral photo from December 6, 1992, of a group of youngsters joyously standing atop one of the Babri Mosque's three domes, but he denied any involvement in the mosque's demolition.

Gopchade said that in 1992, he wasn't part of any party or group but was strongly influenced by Hindutva. He stated that as a youth, he organised "Ram Shila Puja" in rural Maharashtra to support the Ram Janmabhoomi cause.

Contrary to his assertions, Gopchade had maintained a strong connection with the RSS since his student years and had been instrumental in promoting Hindutva during his tenure as a doctor. He subsequently became a member of the BJP, earned his MD from a government medical college, and took on the role of convener for the party's doctors' cell. Subsequently, he ascended to the position of vice-president of the party.

The BJP recognised his organisational skills and his proactive involvement in coordinating medical camps during the Covid-19 pandemic, leading to their recommendation of his candidature for the Maharashtra Legislative Council elections in May 2020. His name, however, was dropped at the last minute.

## Left Congress; joins BJP and is elected to Rajya Sabha

**F**ormer Maharashtra Chief Minister and BJP leader Ashok Chavan was elected to the Rajya Sabha on a BJP ticket in 2024. Ashok Chavan

began his political journey with the Congress party, which elevated him to the position of Chief Minister of Maharashtra, overlooking other prominent and long-serving leaders within the party.

The Congress party appointed him as the Minister for Cultural Affairs, Industries, Mines, and Protocol in the Vilasrao Deshmukh government, and he was also appointed as the PWD Minister of Maharashtra. However, he departed from the Congress party and became a member of the Bhartiya Janata Party on 13 February 2024.

Interesting, the Nanded Lok Sabha constituency was represented by Ashok Chavan, and his departure from the party did not impact the Congress party, as the candidate won the Nanded Lok Sabha constituency in the 2024 elections and again in the 2024 bypolls. The bypoll occurred due to the death of sitting Lok Sabha member Vasantrao Balwantrao Chavan.

Chavan hails from an influential political family based in Nanded district of Maharashtra. He is the son of Shankarrao Chavan, a former Chief Minister of Maharashtra; together, they are the first father-son duo in the history of the state to hold the position of chief minister.

On 9 November 2010, the Congress Party asked for his resignation from office due to corruption allegations connected to the Adarsh Housing Society scam. In the 2014 general elections, he secured a comfortable victory in the Lok Sabha election from his Nanded constituency, despite facing allegations and an anti-incumbency wave.

## Milind Deora quit Congress when party needed him

**M**ilind Deora, a former Congress leader, was elected to the Rajya Sabha on a Shiv Sena ticket from Maharashtra in 2024. People know Milind Murli Deora for getting into Indian politics early. At age 27, he was one of the youngest Members of Parliament, and the credit goes to the Congress Party.

The Congress Party did not stop here; in fact, they



made him Minister of State for Communications, Information Technology, and Shipping in the second ministry of Dr. Manmohan Singh. But Milind Murli Deora quit the Congress party when the party needed him to and joined the Shiv Sena, which was run by Eknath Shinde, in January 2024.

Milind Deora was born into a Marwari family from Rajasthan with a strong political history. His father, Murli Deora, was Mumbai's mayor and later a four-term Member of Parliament for the Mumbai South Constituency.

Milind attended the Cathedral, John Connon School, and Sydenham College. He later earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Boston University's Questrom School of Business.



## Praful Patel knows politics better than any professional politician

**P**raful Patel, leader of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), is very smart because he quit as a member of the Rajya Sabha before the end of his fifth term. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha for the fifth time in 2022, but his fifth term would have ended in 2028.

He has resigned, contested once more, and has been re-elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2024, marking the beginning of his sixth term, which will extend until 2030. He gets two more years in the Rajya Sabha, so there's no chance for another NCP member.

On the other hand, reports indicated that he was facing a disqualification petition filed by the NCP's Sharad Pawar-led faction, which is why he resigned.

However, I do not believe the reports. As far as I know, he may not be disqualified because there was a possibility that the NCP would have come into the hands of Ajit Pawar due to political circumstances.

And my belief became reality when the Election Commission of India (ECI) recognised the faction



led by his nephew, Ajit Pawar, who was also the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra (Ajit Pawar is now also a Deputy Chief Minister following the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly polls) as the "real NCP" and allocated the party symbol 'clock' to the group ahead of the Rajya Sabha polls in 2024.

Patel was born in the Vidarbha region and first won a seat in the upper house of the Parliament in 2000. He was then reelected in 2006, but he resigned after winning a seat in the Lok Sabha.

Patel is from Nadiad, which is in the middle part of Gujarat. His father, Manohar Patel, was born there into a farming family. After that, the family moved to Gondia, Maharashtra, and Manoharbai Patel was chosen as a Congress MLA four times.

Patel wanted to pursue a political career, following in his father's footsteps. He was only 28 years old when he was elected head of the municipal council in Gondia, Maharashtra, in 1985, and 33 when he won his maiden Lok Sabha seat. After winning the Lok Sabha three times in a succession, the 10th Lok Sabha was elected in 1991. Patel was reelected to the 11th and 12th Lok Sabhas in 1996 and 1998, respectively.

He was one of the youngest members of the Indian cabinet in 2004. Patel was relieved of the Civil Aviation Portfolio and appointed Cabinet Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.

He got his Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Bombay and married Varsha Patel, the daughter of a Gujarati businessman. He is the owner of the CeeJay Group, which is family-owned.

Along with politics and business, he is involved in sports and served as president of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) from 2009 to 2022, when the Committee of Administrators (CoA) took over the interim administration following the Supreme Court's appointment.

## Chandrakant Handore, a Dalit face for Congress in Maharashtra

**C**handrakant Handore, a well-known Dalit leader and the Congress party's Maharashtra Working President, was sent to the Rajya Sabha by the party in 2024.

Chandrakant Handore, a former Mumbai mayor, lost the legislative council elections in 2022 despite



the fact that the Congress had enough votes to easily win his election. The Congress had enough numbers in the Assembly to elect only one leader; the party fielded two, dividing the votes

While Chandrakant Handore was apparently the first choice for the Legislative Council, it was Bhai Jagtap who won the polls. Then, Chandrakant Handore said that cross-voting happened during the elections for the legislative council.

Rising through the ranks, Chandrakant Handore served as a minister in the Congress-Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) government.

## Renuka Chowdhury elected to Rajya Sabha for fourth time

**R**enuka Chowdhury, a leader from Congress, has been elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha for the fourth time. She was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Telangana in 2024. Renuka Chowdhury began his political journey in 1984 with the Telugu Desam Party (TDP).



She served as a member of the Rajya Sabha for two consecutive terms and held the position of Chief Whip of the Telugu Desam Parliamentary Party from 1986 to 1998. In 2012, she secured re-election to the Rajya Sabha on a Congress ticket for her third term.

When she was denied a third term in the Rajya Sabha in 1998 and actor-turned-politician Jaya Prada was nominated in her place, she turned on Chandrababu Naidu and questioned his decision to join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

She later joined the Congress and ran for the Khammam Lok Sabha seat in 1999. She was one of just five Congress candidates from Andhra Pradesh who were elected to the Lok Sabha. She won from



Khammam Lok Sabha constituency despite a three-corner contest.

She served as the Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare from 1997 to 1998 in H. D. Deve Gowda's cabinet. In May 2004, she assumed the role of Minister of State for Tourism in the UPA I government. She served as the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Women and Child Development during the UPA I government from January 2006 to May 2009.

Renuka Chowdhury began her political career as a corporator in Banjara Hills, a wealthy neighbourhood in Hyderabad. Born in Visakhapatnam in 1954 to an air commander's family, she had the opportunity to reside in several regions of the country, study multiple languages, and understand various cultures.

She completed her schooling in Punjab, finished Class 10 in New Delhi, and continued her studies in Chennai and Bengaluru. She has a diploma in marketing management, public relations, and advertising. At the age of 21, she married Sridhar Chowdary, a Hyderabad-based businessman. The couple has two daughters.

## Like father, like son

**M**andadi Anil Kumar Yadav, a Congress leader, was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Telangana in 2024. Anil Kumar Yadav, son of M. Anjan Kumar Yadav, a former Lok Sabha member, became a member of Parliament for the first time.

Anjan Kumar Yadav represented the Secunderabad Lok Sabha constituency twice for the Congress, in 2004 and 2009. Anil Kumar Yadav, the Youth Congress president from 2015 to 2020, sought the Secunderabad Assembly seat in the 2023 assembly elections but was not granted the ticket. Anjan Kumar Yadav ran for Musheerabad but lost to the BRS.



## Vaddiraju Ravichandra elected to Rajya Sabha for second time

**V**addiraju Ravichandra, a former Congress leader and BRS leader, was elected to the Rajya Sabha for the second time from Telangana in 2024. He was then named the deputy leader of the BRS party in parliament. For the first time, Ravichandra was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2022.

Vaddiraju Ravichandra ran as a Congress candidate for the Warangal East Assembly constituency in the 2018 Telangana Legislative Assembly election, but was defeated by TRS candidate Nannapuneni Narender. He later joined the TRS Party in 2019.

Vaddiraju is from the village of Inugurthy in the district of Mahabubabad's Kesamudram mandal.

Ravichandra, better known as Gayatri Ravi, is the Founder Chairman of Gayatri Group, President of Telangana Granite Quarry Owners Association, and Honorary President of the Telangana Munnuru Kapu All Association JAC and the National Union of Backward Castes.



## Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi elected to Rajya Sabha again

**S**enior BJP leader Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh for the second time in 2024. He was elected for the first time in 2019. Dr Trivedi is a key National Spokesperson for the BJP. Dr. Trivedi is equally eloquent in Hindi and English.

Before entering politics, he was a faculty member in the Mechanical Engineering department at several universities, including Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramoday Vishwavidyalaya. Subsequently, he served as an



information advisor to the former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and as a political advisor to the former BJP National President Rajnath Singh.

In the 2014 Indian General Elections, he served as a member of the BJP's media team. As of 2016, he is the national spokesperson of the BJP.

Trivedi was born on October 20, 1970, in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, to U.D. Trivedi and Shrimati Priyamvada Trivedi. He pursued a degree in Engineering and earned a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technical University, formerly known as U.P. Technical University, located in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

## Doon School alumnus enters Rajya Sabha

**R**atanjit Pratap Narain Singh, also known as R. P. N. Singh, was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh in 2024 on a BJP ticket. Singh was a star in the Congress party, frequently seen with top party leaders, but he left the party in 2022.

Former Minister of State for Home Affairs, has resigned from the Congress Party in January 2022 and joined the BJP a month before the 2022

Uttar Pradesh elections, becoming the fourth famous Doon School alumnus to do so, after Jyotiraditya Scindia, Jitin Prasada, and Amarinder Singh.

R.P.N. Singh is from the Sainthwar royal family of Kushinagar (Padrauna), Uttar Pradesh. He went to The Doon School, an institution which has had historic links with Congress since the Rajiv Gandhi 'Doon Cabinet' era, and given Rahul Gandhi's own schooling at Doon.

From 2014 to 2018, he was president of Doon's alumni body, The Doon School Old Boys' Society.

Meanwhile, R.P.N. Singh was elected as MLA from the Padrauna seat in 1996, 2002, and 2007. He was elected to the Lok Sabha in 2009. He lost the 2014 and 2019 elections for the Lok Sabha from the Kushinagar seat.



## BJP sent Mathura's Jat leader to Rajya Sabha

**S**enior BJP leader Chaudhary Tejveer Singh was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh in 2024. He was previously elected as a member of the Lok Sabha representing Mathura in the 11th, 12th, and 13th Lok Sabha.

Chaudhary Tejveer Singh, who is from Uttar Pradesh's Mathura area, wields considerable power in local politics. He has held important positions, including President of the Uttar Pradesh Cooperative Bank. Seeing his activism, the party appointed him District President in 2012 and 2017.

In fact, the BJP has been trying for a long time to get more Jat votes in an area where Jats are the majority. Giving Chaudhary Tejveer Singh a seat in the Rajya Sabha will make the BJP stronger among the Jats in this case. Chaudhary Tejveer Singh is the second person from the area to be elected to the Rajya Sabha. In 1996, the BSP sent RN Arya to the Rajya Sabha.



## Sadhana Singh receives awards from BJP for her loyalty

**S**adhana Singh, a BJP lawmaker and former MLA from the Mughalsarai constituency, was elected to Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh in 2024. In 2017, the BJP nominated her for the Mughalsarai assembly seat in the assembly elections. She won the election by a large margin. However, in the 2022 assembly elections, the BJP fielded Ramesh Jaiswal in her place.

Even after the ticket was cut, Sadhana Singh remained patient and continued to work for the party by joining the organisation. So, in 2024, the BJP



rewarded Sadhana Singh with a Rajya Sabha ticket, and she was elected to the Rajya Sabha.

She began her political career with the BJP in 1993 and has since held a variety of positions within the party. She served as President of the BJP Mahila Morcha Chandauli thrice. She was also a three-time member of the BJP Uttar Pradesh Working Committee.

She was the MLA for Mughalsarai (Deendayal Upadhyay Nagar) Chandauli. She also serves as the president of Jila Udyog Vyapar Mandal in Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh.

## Amarpal Maurya, with RSS experience, elected to Rajya Sabha

**B**JP leader Amarpal Maurya, who has strong experience working with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh in 2024.

Before joining the BJP, he worked for the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh in Haryana.

Maurya held the position of State General Secretary for the organisation within the BJP and was nominated as a candidate for the Unchahar Assembly constituency during the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly elections. In this election, he competed against Manoj Kumar Pandey, a two-time MLA from the Samajwadi Party, and lost by a margin of 3% votes.

During a personal interview, Maurya shared that he hails from a farming family that grew vegetables, and in his childhood, he would go to the market to sell them. During his student years, he became involved in politics and ran in his first legislative assembly election from the Unchahar Assembly constituency. He received almost 76,000 votes, greatly above the number of votes cast for any previous BJP candidate in this constituency.

In 2019, Maurya ran for Lok Sabha from the Pratapgarh Lok Sabha constituency, however the seat was assigned to BJP ally Apna Dal, and he was asked by party leadership to run under the Apna Dal



symbol. However, Maurya declined to do so.

## A daughter of a retired postman enters Rajya Sabha

**A** daughter of a retired postman and BJP leader, Sangeeta Balwant, was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh in 2024. She is known as a grassroots political leader.

She received her education in Sangeeta and began engaging in the political activities of the Bahujan Samaj Party. However, under the influence of BJP leader and current Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, she became a member of the Bhartiya Janata Party.

Sangeeta Balwant hails from a modest background and is a member of the Mallah community. Born in Ghazipur city, she engaged in politics from her student days.

In 1997, she ran for the student union election at a PG College, successfully securing the position of Vice-President with a total of 2,272 votes. Following that event, she engaged in politics and in 2005, she ran for the district panchayat election from Sadar III, achieving a remarkable victory with a record-breaking 6,600 votes.

Sangeeta was elected as MLA from Ghazipur Sadar on a BJP ticket in 2017 with 92,090 votes. Later, she was given the opportunity to represent the state in the National Women's Welfare, Delhi. She was appointed Chairperson of the Women's Commission Committee.



## A former mayor enters Rajya Sabha

**N**aveen Jain, a BJP leader and former Agra mayor, was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh in 2024. He is the richest member of the Upper House, with assets worth Rs 441 crore that he shares with his wife.

Jain, who has been associated with the BJP for over four decades, was elected mayor of Agra in





2017 and then president of the All India Council of Mayors in 2019. In 2018, he was elected unopposed as chairman of the UP Cooperative Bank.

Naveen Jain became a primary member of the Bharatiya Janata Party 44 years ago. Previously, he worked with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh on social issues. He took full

responsibility for whatever the party assigned to him.

In 1980, he was elected ward president of the party. Only nine years later, he won his first election as a Municipal Corporation councillor. In 2017, he won the election and became Mayor.

## A real estate developer enters Rajya Sabha again

**S**anjay Seth, a real estate developer from Lucknow, was elected to Rajya Sabha on a BJP ticket from Uttar Pradesh in 2024. Seth began his career with the SP. The real estate mogul had a strong connection with the late Mulayam Singh, the founder of the SP.

In 2015, the SP nominated him as a candidate for Member of the Legislative Council (MLC). However, his nomination was rejected by the then-Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Ram Naik. As a result, the SP founder appointed him to the Rajya Sabha.

However, Seth resigned from the Rajya Sabha in 2019 to join the BJP. After his change in loyalty, the BJP reinstated him to the Rajya Sabha to occupy the seat that became vacant due to Seth's resignation.

After completing his term as a member of the Rajya Sabha from 2016 to 2022, Seth was not renominated by the BJP for another term when his tenure ended in 2022. In an unexpected development during the 2024 elections, the BJP decided to provide Seth with another opportunity.



## A prominent Dalit leader enters Rajya Sabha

**R**amjilal Suman, a prominent Dalit face of the SP, was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh in 2024. Suman previously worked as a minister of state in the cabinet of former Prime Minister Chandrashekhar.

He began his political career in 1977, fighting the Lok Sabha election from Firozabad at the age of 26, and then won Lok Sabha seats in 1989, 1999, and 2004. Suman was also imprisoned during the 1975 Emergency. Ramjilal Suman, also the national general secretary of the Samajwadi Party (SP).



## Jaya Bachchan elected to Rajya Sabha for a fifth time

**T**he seasoned actor-turned-politician Jaya Bachchan was elected to the Rajya Sabha on a Samajwadi Party (SP) ticket for her fifth term from Uttar Pradesh in 2024. Jaya Bachchan was elected as a Member of Parliament from the Samajwadi Party in 2004 and represented Uttar Pradesh in the Rajya Sabha till March 2006.

In 2006, she faced disqualification due to holding an office of profit.

She then secured a second term from June 2006 to July 2010, and in February 2010, she expressed her intention to fulfil her term. In 2012, she secured re-election for her third term, followed by another victory in 2018, marking her fourth term in the Rajya Sabha representing the Samajwadi Party.

Additionally, she actively supported the All India Trinamool Congress during the 2021 West Bengal Legislative Assembly election.

Jaya married actor Amitabh Bachchan on June 3,



1973. The couple has two children, Shweta Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan, who is also an actor.

## Uttarakhand statehood movement leader enters Rajya Sabha

**M**ahendra Bhatt, BJP state president, was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Uttarakhand in 2024. Because the Congress did not field a candidate, there was no need for a poll for the state's only vacant seat.



Bhatt, born in 1971, hails from Brahmanthala village in the Pokhri block of Chamoli district and has been a prominent figure in the statehood movement. He spent five days in Pauri jail during the Uttarakhand statehood movement. In addition to this, he was actively involved in the Ram Mandir movement, which led to him spending 15 days in Kanskhet jail in Pauri district.

Mahendra Bhatt won his maiden assembly election as a BJP candidate in Chamoli's Nandprayag constituency in 2002. Following that, he served as a Minister of State in Uttarakhand between 2010 and 2012. He lost the assembly elections in 2012, but won in 2017 from Badrinath. In 2022, he faced defeat in the assembly elections once more, this time against Rajendra Bhandari from Congress. However, he has now made it to the Rajya Sabha.

## Nadimul Haque elected to Rajya Sabha for fourth time

**T**rinamool Congress leader Nadimul Haque was elected to the Rajya Sabha for the third time for West Bengal in 2024. Nadimul Haque is a prominent Muslim figure in the TMC, having been elected to the Rajya Sabha for the first time in 2012 and again in 2018.

He formerly served on the Rajya Sabha Committee of the Ministry of Railways from October 2009 to

March 2012, as well as the Passenger Services Committee from April 2010 to March 2012.

Since May 2011, he has served on the Press Accreditation Committee, West Bengal Minority Development and Finance Corporation, Governing Body of Urdu Academy, Mohammedan Burial Board of Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Citizens Committee of Kolkata Police, and Nazrul Academy.

He has served as a member of the Indian Parliament's Committee on Urban Development since May 2012.



## Notable leader from Matua community, elected to Rajya Sabha

**M**amata Bala Thakur of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) was elected to the Rajya Sabha from West Bengal in 2024. A former Lok Sabha MP, Thakur has been selected by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for a specific purpose: she is a notable leader from the Matua community.

The Matuas represent the second-largest Scheduled Caste community in West Bengal, following the Rajbanshis. The Matua-Namasudras, a Dalit sub-caste traditionally referred to as Chandalas, have their historical roots in the eastern and central regions of the erstwhile undivided Bengal, which is now known as Bangladesh.

In the 19th century, this caste group organised themselves under a socio-religious protest sect called Matua, which led to the adoption of their current name. The Matua-Namasudra control more over 40 of West Bengal's 294 assembly seats. They also have a strong presence in the Lok Sabha seats of Bongaon, Ranaghat, and Krishnanagar, as well as



in pockets throughout North Bengal.

## Sagarika Ghose elected to Rajya Sabha

**S**agarika Ghose, a senior writer, pundit, and author, was elected to Rajya Sabha on a TMC ticket from West Bengal in 2024. Ghose went to school at St. Stephen's College in New Delhi and then won a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford University, where she studied Modern History for her master's degree.



Ghose began her journalism career in 1991 and has written for publications such as The Times of India, Outlook, and The Indian Express. Notably, she was a prime-time anchor for BBC World's "Question Time India" and a deputy editor and prime-time news anchor for CNN-IBN.

She has also written noteworthy biographies, such as "Indira: India's Most Powerful Prime Minister," and a book on former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was published.

She is the daughter of Bhaskar Ghose, the former Director General of Doordarshan. She is married to Rajdeep Sardesai, a journalist and news anchor.

## TMC sent Sushmita Dev to Rajya Sabha for second time

**S**ushmita Dev, the former chief of the All India Mahila Congress, has been elected to the Rajya Sabha for the second time in 2024 on a Trinamool Congress (TMC) ticket from West Bengal.

For the first time, TMC sent Sushmita Dev to the Rajya Sabha in 2021 after her switching from Congress to TMC in August of that year.



Sushmita Dev, the daughter of late Union Minister Santosh Mohan Dev and former MLA Bithika Dev, is a former Lok Sabha MP from Silchar, Assam. She lost to Rajdeep Roy of the BJP in Silchar during the Assam Assembly elections in 2021.

## Samik Bhattacharya enters Uppaer House

**B**JP leader Samik Bhattacharya has been elected to the Rajya Sabha from West Bengal in 2024.

Bhattacharya, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member, was the first member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly from the Basirhat Dakshin constituency, serving from 2014 to 2016.

He was also the chief spokesperson for the BJP in West Bengal from 2020 to 2024.



## Former MLA elected to Rajya Sabha

**D**ebashish Samantaray, a leader of the Biju Janata Dal, was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Odisha in 2024. Debasish Samantaray served as the MLA for the Barabati-Cuttack constituency.

He is the president of the BJD's Cuttack district unit.

Debashish Samantaray recently made headlines by suggesting a possible alliance between his party and the Congress in Odisha. While the Congress rejected the proposal, the ruling BJP claimed that the state's former ruling party is "daydreaming."





## Khuntia was hoping for assembly ticket but gets a Rajya Sabha ticket

**S**ubhashish Khuntia, the BJD leader, was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Odisha in 2024. He is from Puri and currently serves as the vice president of Biju Yuba Janata Dal (BYJD).

On the other hand, Subasish Khuntia was preparing to contest for the BJD ticket in the Puri Assembly constituency for the 2024 Odisha Assembly polls, with his posters appearing in multiple locations throughout Puri as he aimed to participate in the elections. But before the Assembly polls, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha on his party's ticket.



## Bureaucrat turned politician elected to Rajya Sabha again

**B**ureaucrat turned politician and India's railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw was elected to the Rajya Sabha for a second time on a BJP ticket from Odisha in 2024.

However, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha with the support of the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD, as the BJP did not have enough voters after backing its other candidates during the elections. BJD backed Ashwini Vaishnaw during his initial term in 2019 for his election to the Rajya Sabha and also extended support in 2024 for his re-election to the Rajya Sabha.

After being elected to Rajya Sabha in 2019, Ashwini Vaishnaw was appointed as the Minister of Railways and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology in Narendra Modi's second term. He



was then reappointed as the Minister of Railways, Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, and Minister of Information and Broadcasting in Narendra Modi's third term, beginning June 9, 2024.

And the best part of Ashwini Vaishnaw, he is calm and a good communicator, explaining to journalists about any policies of the government at National Media Centre, New Delhi and the BJP's national headquarters in New Delhi. Since I observe all politicians and their body language because I judge everyone based on their body language, I only saw Ashwini Vaishnaw once while he was angrily speaking in Parliament, which could have been his hit of the moment.

He is originally from Jeewand Kallan village in Pali district, Rajasthan. Later, his family moved to Jodhpur, Rajasthan. Ashwini Vaishnaw attended both St. Anthony's Convent School and Mahesh School in Jodhpur. He graduated with a gold medal in electronic and communications engineering from MBM Engineering College in Jodhpur in 1991, and then went on to complete a master's degree in engineering at IIT Kanpur before joining the Indian Administrative Service in 1994, where he was ranked 27th overall.

Ashwini Vaishnaw moved to the United States in 2008 to get his MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Vaishnaw joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1994, serving in the Odisha cadre. He worked extensively throughout Odisha, including as District Collector of Balasore and Cuttack districts.

During super cyclone 1999, he was able to collect data on the actual timing and location of the cyclone, and the government of Odisha used that data to take safety precautions for the people of Odisha.

He worked in Odisha until 2003, when he was appointed deputy secretary in the office of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. After a brief stint in the PMO, where he helped to develop the public-private partnership framework for infrastructure projects, Vaishnaw was appointed as Vajpayee's private secretary after the BJP-led NDA lost the 2004 election. He was appointed deputy chairman of the Mormugao Port Trust in 2006 and served there for two years.

In 2008, Vaishnaw resigned from the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and moved to the United States to pursue an MBA at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School.

After completing his MBA, Vaishnaw returned to India and became managing director of GE

Transportation. He later joined Siemens as Vice President of Locomotives and Head of Urban Infrastructure Strategy.

In 2012, he founded Three Tee Auto Logistics Private Limited and Vee Gee Auto Components Private Limited, both automotive component manufacturing companies based in Gujarat.

## A prominent tribal leader from Vagad elected to Rajya Sabha

**C**hunnilal Garasiya, a senior leader from the Bharatiya Janata Party, was elected to Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan in 2024. He is from the Vagad (also known as Vagar) region.

Chunnilal Garasiya is a prominent tribal leader in Mewar (Udaipur) and Vagad (southeastern Rajasthan). It is roughly bounded by the districts of Dungarpur and Banswara. The major cities in the region are Dungarpur and Banswara.

Mewar is a region in South Central Rajasthan. It encompasses the present-day districts of Bhilwara, Chittorgarh, Pratapgarh, Rajsamand, Udaipur, Pirawa Tehsil of Jhalawar District in Rajasthan, Neemuch and Mandsaur in Madhya Pradesh, and some parts of Gujarat.

Chunnilal Garasiya has served as an MLA from Udaipur Rural twice. When he first became an MLA in Bhairon Singh Shekhawat's government, he was appointed Minister of State for Medical and Minister of State for Mines.

Garasiya is from the village of Biluda in Dungarpur. He used to work as a Lower Division Clerk (LDC) in a bank before he got into politics. In the Sangh background, Garasiya is seen as very strong.

He had been a volunteer in the Sangh for three years. Garasiya is very friendly with people who work for the Sangh. He is the National Vice President of the BJP's ST Morcha right now. He used to be the State Vice President of the BJP Rajasthan Executive.



## Rathore receives rewards for keeping Modi's words

**A**fter being denied a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ticket to run in the 2023 Rajasthan election, Madan Rathore decided to run as an independent candidate and filed his nomination papers from Pali's Sumerpur assembly constituency, but he later withdrew his candidature after receiving a call from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



So, I believe he kept Modi's words, which is why he secured the Rajya Sabha ticket for 2024 and got elected to the Upper House from Rajasthan. After being elected to the Rajya Sabha, the BJP appointed him as president of the Rajasthan unit.

Madan Rathore, a prominent BJP leader, is widely regarded as one of the party's most senior figures. Rathore, an OBC leader and two-time MLA, sought a BJP ticket for the 2023 assembly elections. However, the party did not give him a ticket. Rathore initially filed his nomination as an independent candidate, but withdrew it after consulting with party leaders.

Rathore previously served as an MLA from the Sumerpur assembly seat in Pali district twice. He also served as Deputy Chief Whip under former BJP Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje's leadership.

Rathore was born in Raipur, Pali district, and graduated from Rajasthan University. He has been associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) since the 1970s, when he started as an RSS pracharak (campaigner).

## BJP rewarded Verma with a Rajya Sabha ticket

**P**radeep Verma, a BJP leader, was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Jharkhand in 2024. Since 2020, he has served as the Party State General Secretary of the BJP Jharkhand.

Verma is a second-year OTC-trained Swayamsevak from the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and previously worked as a Joint Secretary for Seva Bharti in Prantiya toli. He previously served as the Party State Secretary BJP Jharkhand in 2016 and

the Party State Minister BJP Jharkhand in 2013. He previously served as the BJP's state co-convenor cell in-charge in Jharkhand.

Varma was born on February 24, 1972, in Kolkata, to a Hindu Vaishya family. However, his ancestors were from tehsil Barwadih in the Latehar district of Jharkhand. In search of work and better living conditions, his ancestors moved from the Latehar district of Jharkhand to the Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh.

It was in 1990 that Varma joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. As a dedicated swayamsevak, he travelled all over the country by working and training in different shakhas. It was from 2009 to 2012 that he was in Prantiya Sampark Toli.

During his college years, he was deeply involved in student politics, inspired by the political ideals of the Late Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. He was also inspired by the principles found in Chankaya Neeti and Vidur Neeti.

In 2011, Varma took on the role of BJP Pradesh Karyasamiti Sadasya Pradesh Sah Prashikshan Pramukh. Due to his increasing impact on state and regional politics, he has been assigned roles in various state legislative assembly elections and general elections.

In 2013, Varma served as the state minister within the party cadre of BJP Jharkhand. In the 2014 General Election, he served as the campaign manager for the election in the state.

After a lot of hard work, he was promoted to State Vice President BJP Jharkhand in 2016. This helped the party win a lot of seats in the upcoming state elections. The BJP and its coalition partner, the NDA, won 12 of the 14 seats in Jharkhand's 2019 general election.

Because of this, Varma became well-known in the state and was named the Party's State General Secretary in 2019. Later in 2019, he worked on the Dhanbad region of the Jharkhand state legislative assembly election. In that election, the BJP won Dhanbad, Nirsa, Baghmara, and Sindri, but lost ground in Jharia and Tundi.



## After leaving Soren's wife's MLA seat, Sarfaraz Ahmad won a Rajya Sabha ticket

Former Congress leader Sarfaraz Ahmad was elected to the Rajya Sabha on a JMM ticket from Jharkhand, and he was subsequently appointed as the leader of the JMM in the Rajya Sabha.

He was rewarded with a Rajya Sabha ticket after resigning from the Assembly membership on December 31, 2023, apparently paving the way for former Chief Minister Hemant Soren's wife, Kalpana Soren, to contest the election from the seat.

He served as the representative for the Gandey constituency in 1980 and 2009 as a Congress MLA, and in 2019 as a JMM MLA. Sarfaraz has dedicated the last 50 years to politics, holding multiple roles within the Congress party.



## Kanam Rajendran's supporter elected Rajya Sabah

CPI's state assistant secretary P P Suneer was elected to Rajya Sabha from Kerala in 2024. Suneer, a supporter of Kanam Rajendran, ran against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in the 2019 Lok Sabha election from Wayanad and lost by a margin of 4.37 lakhs votes.

Kanam Rajendran, Secretary of the Kerala Communist Party of India (CPI) and the party's top leader in the state, died of a cardiac arrest in a private hospital in Kochi in 2023. He was 73.

Rajendran, a member of the CPI's central secretariat, remained a powerful figure within the ruling LDF and frequently clashed with the CPI(M) leadership over various issues. As the leader of





the coalition's second-largest party, he played a key role in convincing the CPI(M) to take a strong stance, particularly on issues such as corruption and environmental protection.

## Mani re-elected to the Upper House

**J**ose K. Mani, the Chairman of Kerala Congress (M), was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Kerala for the third time in 2024. For the first time, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha from the UDF in 2018.

However, Mani resigned from his Rajya Sabha seat in early 2021 to run in the 2021 Kerala Assembly election. However, he lost the seat that his father, KM Mani, had held for over 50 years until his death.

So he ran for Rajya Sabha again in 2021 and was successfully re-elected. However, Mani, who was previously elected to the Rajya Sabha as a candidate for the Congress-led United Democratic Front in Kerala, has now been elected as a representative of the CPM-led Left Democratic Front after the Kerala Congress (M) party left the UDF and joined the Left-front.

In 2004, he ran for parliament from the Muvattupuzha constituency but was defeated by P. C. Thomas. In 2007, he was elected General Secretary of the Kerala Congress (Mani) Party.

On the other hand, he won the 2009 Lok Sabha election from the Kottayam constituency by more than 70,000 votes over CPI(M) candidate K. Suresh Kurup. He won re-election in 2014 by a margin of 120,599 votes over Mathew T. Thomas of JD(S).



## IUML sent a Supreme Court advocate to Rajya Sabha

**S**upreme Court advocate Haris Beeran was elected to the Rajya Sabha on an Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) ticket from Kerala in 2024. Beeran has represented the IUML in several

petitions before the Supreme Court, including the challenge against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

The party believes Beeran's legal expertise will improve the IUML's performance in the Upper House. Haris Beeran's father, V.K. Beeran, was also a well-known lawyer and former additional advocate general.



## Private university chancellor enters Rajya Sabha

**S**atnam Singh Sandhu, an educationist and the founder chancellor of Chandigarh University, a private university located in Mohali, Punjab, received a nomination to the Rajya Sabha from the President of India, Draupadi Murmu, on January 30, 2024.

Satnam Singh Sandhu became the second private university chancellor to enter Upper House. Previously, the Aam Admi Party (AAP) government in Punjab nominated Lovely Professional University (LPU), Phagwara founder chancellor Ashok Mittal to the Rajya Sabha.

He is from the small village of Rasulpur in Ferozepur district and comes from a farming family. Satnam Singh Sandhu established the Chandigarh Group of Colleges (CGC) at Landran in Mohali in 2001. He founded Chandigarh University in 2012.

Satnam Singh Sandhu's early life was filled with difficulties. He struggled to complete his education. Because of his difficult childhood, he became a dedicated philanthropist later in life. He frequently extends financial assistance to students.

Not many people are aware that Satnam Singh Sandhu's brother Furman Singh Sandhu is the president of the Bharti Kisan Union, Punjab, a member of SKM, which led the farmers' protest and forced the Modi government to repeal the three farm



laws in 2021.

## Murty got Rajya Sabha

**S**udha Murty, an author and philanthropist, has been nominated to the Rajya Sabha by President Droupadi Murmu. Sudha Murty, 74, is a well-known philanthropist, author, and former chairman of the Infosys Foundation.

Her husband, Narayana Murthy, founded the information technology behemoth Infosys, and her son-in-law is former UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

Sudha Murty was born in Shiggaon, Haveri District, North Karnataka, and graduated from the BVB College of Engineering. She was awarded a gold medal by the Institute of Engineers after finishing first in all branches. Later, she earned her ME from the Indian Institute of Science with distinction.

She started her career as an engineer at TELCO, which is now known as Tata Motors. Sudha Murty is now the chairperson of the Infosys Foundation.

The Government of India recognised Sudha Murty's social work by awarding her the Padma Shri in 2006 and the Padma Bhushan in 2023, making her one of the recipients of the highest civilian honours.



## Beeda Masthan Rao is back in the Rajya Sabha

**A**fter leaving the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) and resigning as a Rajya Sabha member, Mopidevi Venkataramana was re-elected to the Upper House on a Telugu Desam Party (TDP) ticket for Andhra Pradesh in 2024. Venkataramana's tenure would have ended on June 21, 2026, since he was elected to Upper House in 2020.



Beeda, 66, is a BC community industrialist and politician from Iskapalle village in the district's Bogole mandal. His brother, Beeda Ravi Chandra, is a staunch TDP activist who currently serves as the party's national secretary.

Beeda Masthan Rao began his political career as a Bogolu ZPTC member under the TDP banner in 2001, and in 2009, he defeated Congress nominee Katamreddy Vishnu Vardhan Reddy by a margin of 19,027 votes in the Kavali constituency.

The Beeda brothers, with their significant influence over the fishermen community, have played a crucial role in bolstering the TDP across various aspects, including its financial standing, following the party's defeat in the 2005 elections.

Later in the 2014 elections, Beeda Masthan Rao ran under the same TDP banner but was defeated by YSRCP candidate Ramireddy Pratap Kumar Reddy by a margin of only 4,969 votes. He was an advisory member of the Capital Region Development Authority from 2014 to 2019.

Meanwhile, under the party's high command, Masthan Rao ran for the Nellore MP seat in 2019, but was defeated by YSRCP nominee Adala Prabhakar Reddy by 1,48,571 votes.

Beeda Masthan Rao later joined the YSRCP and was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2022. He was still serving a two-year term, but the YSRCP lost power in the 2024 elections. He left the party to join the TDP in October 2024.

## Krishnaiah returned home

**P**rominent Other Backward Classes (OBC) leader and former lawmaker from Telangana, R Krishnaiah, was re-elected to the Rajya Sabha on a BJP ticket from Andhra Pradesh in December 2024 after quitting the Upper House on September 24, 2024, as well as leaving the YSR Congress.



Krishnaiah was nominated to the Rajya Sabha in June 2022, and his term would have ended in 2028. However, Krishnaiah resigned from the Upper House due to political developments in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Though Krishnaiah is from Telangana, he is also well-known in Andhra Pradesh. In 2022, he joined former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's YSR Congress Party, and in June 2022, he was sent to Rajya Sabha from Andhra Pradesh to show that he cared about the Other Backward Classes (OBCs). The 70-year-old BC leader is from Rallagudpally, Vikarabad district.

Krishnaiah represented the LB Nagar constituency in the Telangana Assembly as a TDP member. He had held leadership positions in both the RSS and the ABVP. He entered electoral politics in 2014 and was elected as MLA for the LB Nagar constituency on a TDP ticket. He has been promoting the cause of OBCs concurrently.

Krishnaiah launched his campaign for separate hostels for high school students in 1976, and the Andhra Pradesh government now builds 300 to 500 new hostels each year. Over 5,000 hostels now offer free food and lodging to more than 500,000 students from the OBC, SC, and ST communities.

He also led successful campaigns to secure scholarships for low-income students in junior colleges, degree colleges, and universities that did not exist prior to 1976. Furthermore, Krishnaiah's efforts resulted in the construction of over 600 residential colleges throughout Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, providing educational opportunities for students from underprivileged backgrounds.

## A journey from Electrical Department employee to Rajya Sabha member

**Y**es, once an employee in the electrical department, Sana Sathish was elected to the Rajya Sabha on a Telugu Desam Party (TDP) ticket from Andhra Pradesh in 2024. Sathish had been harbouring political aspirations for some time.

There were strong rumours that he tried to get a TDP ticket for a Lok Sabha seat in the 2024 election but failed. However, he secured a Rajya Sabha ticket from the TDP and was elected to the



Upper House in 2024.

His father, Subba Rao, worked in the electrical department, and his mother, Satyaprabha, is a homemaker. After his father died, Sathish was able to secure a job in the electrical department on compassionate grounds in 1994.

Sathish's humble beginnings as a middle-class boy were in the Godavari region of coastal Andhra. He finished his Intermediate at PR Government College and later earned a Diploma in Electrical Engineering, which led to a promotion as an electrical engineer.

After working for nearly a decade as an electricity department employee, a job he took on compassionate grounds due to his father's death, he quit and relocated to Hyderabad in 2005.

Sathish quickly became involved in a number of businesses and investments, earning a reputation as a savvy lobbyist with close ties to politicians from all political parties. He had a variety of business interests, including real estate, natural resources, and pubs.

He came under the scrutiny of central investigative agencies after he was booked for money laundering by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

The case concerned meat exporter Moin Qureshi. In 2019, he was arrested by the ED and placed in judicial custody. Prior to that, he was involved in a fight with then-top CBI officials, special director Rakesh Asthana and director Alok Verma. In a complaint to the CBI, he claimed that Asthana had taken bribes worth Rs 2 crore from him. More recently, in 2024, the Delhi High Court upheld money laundering proceedings against Sana Sathish, justifying the ED summons.

## Teli elected to Rajya Sabha

**B**JP leader Rameswar Teli was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Assam in 2024. He was first elected to the Lok Sabha from the Dibrugarh constituency in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections and again in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections from the same seat before being replaced in 2024 by former Chief Minister of





Assam Sarbananda Sonowal.

Teli, a notable figure within the tea-tribe community in the BJP, served as the Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, as well as Labour and Employment, during the second term of Narendra Modi's government from 2021 to 2024.

Before becoming a Lok Sabha MP and Rajya Sabha MP, he was a member of the Assam Legislative Assembly from Duliajan from 2001 to 2011.

## A veteran BJP politician elected to Rajya Sabha

**S**enior BJP leader Mission Ranjan Das has been elected to the Rajya Sabha from Assam in 2024. He was elected to the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1991, 2000, 2001, and 2006 from the Karimganj North constituency.

Before being elected to Rajya Sabha, Das, a veteran BJP politician, served as chairman of the Assam State Transport Corporation.



## BCI chairman Manan Mishra elected to Rajya Sabha

**M**anan Kumar Mishra, a senior advocate at the Supreme Court and chairman of the Bar Council of India (BCI), was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Bihar in 2024. He had joined the BJP at the beginning of 2014. Following that, he was appointed as the BJP's star campaigner in the last Lok Sabha elections.

Mishra, a native of Gopalganj, Bihar, earned a law degree from Patna University. He was the gold medallist in his batch. Mishra began his career as an advocate at Patna High Court in 1982 before moving



to the Supreme Court in 2009.

Mishra was first elected as chairman of BCCI in April 2012. Since then, he has won elections consistently. He's currently serving his seventh term.

## Kushwaha received Rajya Sabha seat vacated by Thakur

**A**fter losing the 2024 Lok Sabha election in the Karakat Lok Sabha constituency, Upendra Kumar Singh was elected to Rajya Sabha as an NDA candidate from Bihar for a two-year term. The Rajya Sabha seat in the state had become vacant after Vivek Thakur of the BJP was elected to the Lok Sabha from Nawada in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Thakur's tenure lasted only 19 months.



So, Kushwaha received the Rajya Sabha seat vacated by Thakur.

Upendra Kushwaha first entered politics in 1985, serving as Yuva Lok Dal's State General Secretary from that time until 1988. From 1988 to 1993, Kushwaha served as National General-Secretary of the Yuva Janata Dal.

He also served as General Secretary of the Samata Party from 1994 to 2002. Kushwaha served as a member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly from 2000 to 2005, and he was appointed Deputy Leader.

On the other hand, after Sushil Modi was elected to the Lok Sabha in March 2004, Kushwaha, a first-time MLA, was appointed opposition leader in the Bihar Legislative Assembly because the JD(U) had more MLAs than the Bharatiya Janata Party.

After leaving the JDU, he formed the Rashtriya Samata Party (RSP), which later merged with the Janata Dal (United) (JDU) in 2009. He left JDU again, later formed the Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP), rejoined JDU, and merged with JD(U) in 2021.

However, due to political differences with the Janata Dal (United) and Nitish Kumar, Kushwaha resigned from all positions in the party on February 20, 2023, and formed his own party, Rashtriya Lok Morcha.

Kushwaha left the JD(U) twice, but after the split in 2013, he lost much support from the Kushwaha

caste for himself and his party, resulting in massive election defeats for the Rashtriya Lok Samata Party, most notably in the 2019 Lok Sabha election and the 2020 assembly election.

Before he was elected to the Bihar Assembly or Parliament, he worked from 1994 to 2002 as the General Secretary for the Samata Party. After that, Kushwaha was elected to the Bihar Legislative Assembly from the Jandaha Assembly constituency and served as its deputy leader from 2000 to 2005. In October 2003, the Samata Party, under the leadership of George Fernandes and Nitish Kumar, merged with the Janata Dal.

## Kiran Choudhry elected to Rajya Sabha for two years

**K**iran Chaudhary, former Congress leader and current BJP leader, was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Haryana in 2024. She was elected to the Upper House after Congress leader Deepender Hooda won the Lok Sabha election from Rohtak, leaving the seat vacant. Kiran will serve as a Rajya



Sabha member for the remainder of Deepender Hooda's term, which expires in April 2026.

Kiran Chaudhary, a four-time MLA from Tosham, served as a minister in Bhupinder Singh Hooda's ministry. Kiran Choudhry and her daughter Shruti Choudhry resigned as primary members of the Congress in June 2024, and both mother and daughter joined the BJP.

She is a four-time elected former Haryana Legislative Assembly Member from Tosham (Bhiwani) for the Indian National Congress, succeeding her late husband, Surender Singh. Her father-in-law, Bansi Lal, has served as Haryana's Chief Minister three times.

As an interesting side note, Shruti Choudhry, Kiran Chaudhary's daughter, won the Tosham Assembly constituency in the 2024 Haryana assembly elections by 14257 votes over the Congress candidate. Interestingly, the Tosham Assembly constituency is now represented by Shruti Choudhry, following in the

footsteps of her parents.

She currently serves as a Cabinet Minister in the Haryana Government after being elected as a legislative member (MLA) from Tosham (Bhiwani).

According to reports, Kiran Choudhry was upset with the denial of a ticket to Shruti Choudhry from the Bhiwani-Mahendragarh constituency in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, as well as the party's general ticket distribution in the state.

The Congress contested nine out of the ten Lok Sabha seats in Haryana, while the Kurukshetra seat was unsuccessfully contested by the AAP, a member of the INDIA bloc. The Congress secured five seats from the BJP.

The Congress gave the ticket to then-sitting MLA from Mahendragarh constituency and Hooda loyalist Rao Dan Singh from Bhiwani-Mahendragarh, where Shruti previously served as MP, but he lost to the BJP's sitting MP Dharambir Singh.

Before the 2024 Haryana Assembly elections, Kiran Choudhry and her daughter Shruti Choudhry left the party and joined the ruling BJP. After the 2024 Haryana Assembly elections, the BJP won a huge majority and stayed in power.

Kiran Choudhry became the fifth woman to be elected to the Rajya Sabha from Haryana in 1990, joining Sushma Swaraj from the BJP and Vidya Beniwal from Janata Dal (S) (Devi Lal's then party), who were also elected to the Rajya Sabha from Haryana. They both finished their six-year term.

In April 2002, Sumitra Mahajan from INLD was elected to the Rajya Sabha representing Haryana. She was the wife of the late Om Prakash Mahajan, a former minister of Haryana. She was unable to complete her six-year term because she passed away in January 2007. In April 2014, Kumari Selja from the Congress party was elected to the Rajya Sabha representing Haryana.

## Rekha Sharma became sixth woman elected to Rajya Sabha from Haryana

**R**ekha Sharma, the former chairperson of the National Commission for Women and a leader of the BJP, was elected unopposed in the Rajya Sabha bypoll from Haryana in 2024.

Rekha Sharma was elected in place of BJP politician Krishan Lal Panwar, who resigned after



being elected as an MLA in the October state assembly elections. Panwar is now the BJP's Development and Panchayat Minister in Haryana.

She became the sixth woman to be elected to the Rajya Sabha from Haryana in 1990, joining Sushma Swaraj from the BJP and Vidya Beniwal

from Janata Dal (S) (Devi Lal's then party), who were also elected to the Rajya Sabha from Haryana. They both finished their six-year term.

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Rekha Sharma is a graduate of DAV College in Dehradun (Uttarakhand). Rekha Sharma, 60, holds degrees in Political Science, History, and English Literature, as well as diplomas in Marketing and Advertising, Fashion Designing, and a Higher Diploma in Computer Systems Management.

She was nominated as a member of the NCW in August 2015 and was appointed chairperson in 2017. She resigned from the NCW in August 2024, after nine years on the panel. Sharma, who is married to an Army officer, previously served as a member of the Haryana government's District Consumer and Redressal Forum.

## Kurian is second BJP leader from Kerala elected to RS from MP

**G**eorge Kurian, who has been with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from the party's inception in 1980, was elected to the Rajya Sabha (RS) for Madhya Pradesh (MP) in 2024. The 64-year-old Kurian, a member of the BJP in Kerala, was appointed

Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy, and Minority Affairs Minister in Narendra Modi's third term on June 9, 2024.

George Kurian, a Supreme Court lawyer, previously served as vice-chairman of the National Commission for Minorities and an OSD (officer on special duty) to the then-Minister of State for Railways, O Rajagopal.

Interestingly, Kurian contested an election once in his life, which was in 2016. He finished third in the Kerala assembly polls from the Puthuppally seat, which was won by then Chief Minister and Congress stalwart Oommen Chandy for the eleventh time.

George Kurian has become the second BJP leader from Kerala elected to the Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh, following O Rajagopal, who was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh in 1992. He began his second term in the Rajya Sabha representing Madhya Pradesh in 1998 and subsequently served as a minister in the BJP-led government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee from 1999 to 2004.



## Ajit Pawar sends his wife to Rajya Sabha

**S**unetra Pawar, the wife of Ajit Pawar and leader of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2024 by-elections after losing the 2024 Lok Sabha election to her sister-in-law and daughter of Sharad Pawar, Supriya Sule, from Maharashtra's Baramati parliamentary constituency.

Sunetra Pawar ran for the Lok Sabha election in the Baramati constituency but was defeated by the incumbent MP and NCP (SP) candidate Supriya Sule, with a margin of 1.58 lakh votes.





Sunetra Pawar is the sister of Padamsinh Patil, a former minister in the Maharashtra government, a Lok Sabha member, and an NCP leader. She is the chairperson of Baramati Textile Company and the CEO of the Environmental Forum of India.

## Like Father, Like Son

**N**itin Patil, led by Ajit Pawar of the NCP, was elected to the Rajya Sabha for Maharashtra in the 2024 bypoll. He is the son of former MP Laxmanrao Patil, and his brother, NCP MLA Makarand Patil, represents the Wai assembly constituency in Satara district.



He is also the chairman of the Satara District Cooperative Bank. He was supposed to run as an NCP candidate in the Satara Lok Sabha constituency, but the party had to concede the seat to the BJP.

Nitin Patil of the Nationalist Congress Party was elected to fill the seat left vacant by BJP's Piyush Goyal who was elected to the Lok Sabha in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

## He's following his father's footsteps

**B**haratiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Dhairyasheel Patil was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Maharashtra in the 2024 bypoll. He joined the BJP in December 2023.

Dhairyasheel Patil, a former MLA from Pen, has been elected to the seat left vacant by Udayanraje Bhosale when he was elected to the Lower House from the Satara Lok Sabha seat. Patil's term will last till April 2026.



Before being elected to the Rajya Sabha, he served as a member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly for the Pen constituency from 2009 to 2019.

Patil was born in 1971 in Pen, Maharashtra. Mohan Mahadev Patil, his father, held the position of state minister in Maharashtra, was a prominent leader of the Peasants and Workers Party of India, and served as an MLA from Pen for 24 years until 2004.

Following in his father's footsteps, Patil became a member of the Peasants and Workers Party of India and ran for the Pen seat in the 2009 elections. He secured victory with a margin of 7,616 votes. He secured re-election in 2014.

Patil tried his luck in the Lok Sabha poll, but his opponent Ravisheth Patil defeated him by 24,085 votes taking the seat.

## Former BJD leader elected to the Rajya Sabha

**F**ormer BJD and current BJP leader Mamata Mohanta was elected to Rajya Sabha from Odisha. Mamata Mohanta was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2020 as a representative of the Biju Janata Dal. Her term in the Rajya Sabha was scheduled to end in 2026.



Mamta Mohanta, previously a Rajya Sabha MP for BJD, made an unexpected resignation from her position and the party, joining BJP the very next day. On the other side, on August 27, 2024, she was re-elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha as a member of the Bhartiya Janata Party.

Mamata Mohanta is a social activist and Kudmi community leader in Odisha. Mamata Mohanta has been a strong advocate for the rights of the Kudmi community. She has participated in several rallies and protests to seek land rights, improved working conditions for farmers, and access to education and healthcare.

## After quitting, Sujeet Kumar returned to Rajya Sabha

**S**ujeet Kumar, a former BJD leader and current BJP leader, was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Odisha in 2024. Sujeet Kumar completed his education in his hometown of Bhawanipatna, located in the Kalahandi district of Odisha. He subsequently obtained a Bachelor of Engineering (BE) degree from Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (previously known as UCE Burla) and a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from Sambalpur University.



Kumar, previously a BJD MP, resigned from the party and relinquished his Rajya Sabha membership in September to align with the BJP, necessitating a by-election for the seat. He was nominated by the BJP for the by-election, and he won without opposition. The BJP nominated him for the by-election, which he won unopposed.

In addition to his political career, Kumar is a lawyer and qualified arbitrator who has worked in the Supreme Court of India, as well as various High Courts and Tribunals. He has held a number of important posts, including Chairman of the Rajya Sabha's Petitions Committee, where he was one of the youngest members to preside over a parliamentary committee.

Previously, he was the Advisor to the Special Development Council (SDC) of the Government of Odisha, with a status similar to Chief Secretary, and the Special Secretary of the Odisha State Planning Board. These positions included senior-level policy planning and development responsibilities for the state government.

## After losing Punjab's Ludhiana, Bittu was elected to Rajya Sabha

**A**fter losing the 2024 Lok Sabha election in Punjab's Ludhiana Lok Sabha constituency, former Congress leader, Union Minister of

State, and BJP leader Ravneet Singh Bittu was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan in 2024. Bittu, 49, lost to Congress' candidate Amarinder Singh Raja Warring by a margin of 20,942 votes.

On June 9, 2024, he was appointed Minister of State for Railways and Minister of State for Food Processing Industries during the third term of the BJP-led Narendra Modi government.

Prior to his election to the Rajya Sabha, he was elected to the Lok Sabha, the lower house of India's Parliament, from Ludhiana in the 2014 and 2019 Indian general elections, and from Anandpur Sahib in 2009.

He is the grandson of Beant Singh, the previous Punjab Chief Minister. He formerly served as the leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha from March 11 to July 18, 2021.

The Congress party in Lok Sabha made him the party whip. He was briefly made leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha in March 2021 because Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, who was leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha at the time, was busy campaigning for the 2021 West Bengal election. However, on March 24, 2024, Ravneet Singh Bittu resigned the Congress and joined the Bharatiya Janta Party.



## Abhishek Manu Singhvi elected to Rajya Sabha for third time

**A**bhishek Manu Singhvi, a senior Congress leader, was elected to the Rajya Sabha in the 2024 Telangana by-election. He was elected to the vacant seat left by former Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and Congress leader K Keshava Rao.

Interestingly, Singhvi lost the Rajya Sabha election in 2024 in Congress-ruled Himachal Pradesh after both candidates got 34 votes each, the race on February 27 was decided by drawing lots. Harsh Mahajan won.



He was elected to the Rajya Sabha for the third time; first, he was elected in 2006, second time in 2012, and third time in 2024. Singhvi is also a spokesperson for the Congress Party. Besides being a politician, he is a senior advocate of the Supreme Court of India.

Singhvi was born into a Marwari family. His father, Laxmi Mall Singhvi, was an expert in Jain history and culture. He was a well-known lawyer who previously served as India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha (1998–2004).

At the age of 37, Singhvi was appointed the youngest Additional Solicitor General of India in 1997. He held the office for one year, till 1998.

## Bhattacharjee secures a seat in the Rajya Sabha

**R**ajib Bhattacharjee, the BJP Tripura chief, was elected to the Rajya Sabha in the 2024 by-election from the state. He was elected to the Upper House in a vacant seat left by former Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, who resigned after being elected to the Lok Sabha in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls from the Tripura West parliamentary constituency.



Since 2022, he has held the position of State Party President of the BJP in Tripura. In the 2023 Assembly elections, Bhattacharjee ran for the Banamalipur seat, which was formerly held by former chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb, but lost.

Bhattacharjee has been a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) volunteer since 1988. Three years after joining the RSS, Bhattacharjee joined the BJP in 1991.

He has served at nearly every tier of the party's structure, starting as a local BJP worker, progressing to Mandal president in the Banamalipur Assembly constituency, and holding the position of general secretary for the party's town organisational district in West Tripura. Additionally, he has been the treasurer of the party's state committee, as well as serving as party general secretary and vice-president. In 2022, he assumed the role of President for the BJP in Tripura.

## Former CPI(M) leader elected to Rajya Sabha on TMC ticket

**F**ormer CPI(M) leader and Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Ritabrata Banerjee was elected to the Rajya Sabha in the 2024 bypoll from West Bengal.



He was elected to the vacant seat previously held by former bureaucrat Jawhar Sircar, who resigned from the Rajya Sabha and the Trinamool Congress in protest against the rape and murder of a doctor from R. G. Kar Medical College & Hospital in Kolkata, as well as the "corruption" in state administration.

Ritabrata Banerjee, who previously served as the general secretary of the Students' Federation of India (SFI), was appointed to the Rajya Sabha in 2014.

In 2017, he was expelled from the CPI-M, and for the subsequent three years, he served as an independent member of the Rajya Sabha.

Subsequently, Ritabrata Banerjee became a member of the Trinamool Congress, and in 2021, he took on the role of state president for the party's trade union's wing, the Indian National Trinamool Trade Union Congress (INTTUC). ■



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