

## INDIA Bloc Virtual Meet Highlights Internal Frictions and Key Demands for Parliament



The INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance) bloc held a virtual meeting on Saturday, July 19, 2025, bringing together leaders from 24 opposition parties to strategize for the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament, set to commence on Monday. While the session aimed to project unity, sources indicate the online gathering was marked by frank discussions, including some internal complaints, alongside a consensus on several key issues to challenge the government.

The virtual huddle, convened by the Congress, saw participation from prominent figures including Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Sharad Pawar of the NCP (SP), Uddhav Thackeray of Shiv Sena (UBT), and Abhishek Banerjee of the Trinamool Congress (TMC), among others. Notably, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) remained absent, with party MP Sanjay Singh stating that AAP is "not part of the INDIA bloc anymore," asserting its focus on contesting elections independently.

One significant point of contention raised during the meeting was the need for greater coordination and restraint in public criticism among alliance partners. Communist Party of India (CPI) leader D. Raja reportedly cautioned against senior leaders making comments that could undermine the alliance's unity, particularly after an indirect reference to Rahul Gandhi's recent comments on the Left's ideology.

Despite these internal dynamics, the bloc coalesced around several critical issues to raise in Parliament. A major concern was the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, ahead of the state assembly elections. Leaders, including RJD's Tejashwi Yadav and TMC's Abhishek Banerjee, expressed strong objections, alleging that the exercise threatens the voting rights of citizens and could be a "backdoor NRC (National Register of Citizens)."

The recent Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, which claimed 26 lives, and the subsequent "Operation Sindoor" were also high on the agenda. Trinamool Congress's Abhishek Banerjee questioned whether the attack signaled an "intelligence failure" and criticized the extension of the Intelligence Bureau chief. Furthermore, leaders voiced concern over US President Donald Trump's repeated claims of having mediated a "ceasefire" between India and Pakistan, urging the Indian government to provide clarity.

Other issues that the INDIA bloc resolved to highlight include:

- The demand for full statehood for Jammu and Kashmir.
- Rising unemployment and farmers' distress across the country.
- Concerns over "atrocities" against Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), women, and minorities.
- Allegations of misuse of central agencies like the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Election Commission (EC) against the opposition.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to hold a physical meeting of the alliance soon, possibly during the Monsoon Session itself, to further solidify their strategy. The leaders emphasized their resolve to hold the government accountable on matters impacting national security and citizen welfare, underscoring the INDIA bloc's determination to present a united front in Parliament.