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## Nido Taniam killing: Be careful with language, says Brinda to Sushma

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**Ranchi:** CPI(M) Politburo member Brinda Karat today asked BJP leader Sushma Swaraj to be "much more careful" while expressing solidarity with any victim.



"When she (Swaraj) was speaking about the Nirbhaya case, she had described the rape victim as 'jinda lash (comatose)'. And now when she is again expressing solidarity with the Northeast people, she has used derogatory description (inadvertently)," Brinda said here.

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"She has to be much more careful with her language," she said while reacting to the Leader of the Opposition's reported unintentional choice of words while the Lok Sabha condemned the killing of Nido Taniam of Arunachal Pradesh in New Delhi.

**PTI**

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# Ramdas Athawale offers to broker peace between Shiv Sena, BJP; says parties should split CM-tenure equally

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**Pune:** Union minister Ramdas Athawale Sunday said that he had devised a formula to satisfy bickering allies BJP and Shiv Sena which involved splitting the tenure of chief ministership in Maharashtra equally between the two parties.

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He said that he would discuss this proposal with leaders of the Sena and the BJP, allies in the Maharashtra and Union governments.



"The formula of the party with the maximum number of seats getting the Chief Minister's post is already there but I am going to discuss this new formula (splitting the CM's tenure) with leaders of both the parties," Athawale said.

The two parties have been at

loggerheads over several issues and

Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray has said that his party would fight all future polls alone.

The BJP, on the other hand, has said that it wanted an alliance with the Sena but was willing to fight on its own if an agreement was not reached.

The Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment also staked claim to the Mumbai South Central Lok Sabha seat currently held by Sena's Rahul Shewale.

"If the BJP and Sena form an alliance for the 2019 general elections, I will ask Sena to leave Mumbai South Central constituency for me and, in return, I will convince the BJP to leave Palghar seat for Sena," he said. The BJP and Sena, despite being allies, had fought against each other in the Palghar Lok Sabha bypoll in May this year with the former's Rajendra Gavit defeating Sena's Shrinivas Wanaga by 29,572 votes.

Athawale, however, added that it would not be "very difficult" for him to get the Mumbai South Central seat if the Sena and BJP don't forge an alliance. He added that the Bahujan Vanchit Aghadi, an alliance floated by Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh leader Prakash Ambedkar and Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM, would hurt the Congress and benefit the ruling NDA.

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## 'Generate BJP tsunami' in Madhya Pradesh to make effect felt in non-NDA states, Amit Shah tells party workers in Jabalpur

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**Jabalpur:** BJP president Amit Shah Monday gave a call to "uproot" the Congress from Madhya Pradesh in next month's state Assembly polls to generate a "tsunami", the ripple effects of which will be felt in West Bengal and other states currently not ruled by the saffron party.

Addressing party workers in Jabalpur in the state, which goes to the polls on 28 November, Shah said winning over 200 of the 230 Assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh was not enough.

He said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had a strong hold over Madhya Pradesh, where it was in power since 2003, and if the Congress was hoping to rule the state, then the opposition party was just engaging in "daydreaming".

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File image of BJP president Amit Shah. PTI

"Our target is not to cross just 200 seats, but to uproot the Congress from the state to generate a tsunami that will have its effects in states like West Bengal," Shah said, addressing the BJP's "Mera Booth Sabse Mazboot" convention.

Last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given the "Mera Booth Sabse Mazboot" (my polling booth the strongest) call to prepare the party cadre for the Assembly polls in five states to be held in November-December.

Referring to Congress president Rahul Gandhi's assertion earlier Monday that his party was coming to power in Madhya Pradesh, Shah said he should not indulge in "daydreaming".

"After 2014, when Modi became the prime minister of the country, the BJP has emerged victorious in 14 state elections, including in Maharashtra, Haryana, Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Goa and Himachal Pradesh.

"Even after losing 14 elections, he (Gandhi) is dreaming of forming government in Madhya Pradesh," he said, adding, "The BJP's grip in Madhya Pradesh is like the feet of Angad (a mythological character in the Ramayana)."

According to the Hindu epic, nobody was able to lift the feet of Angad in the court of Ravana.

Referring to the BJP's progress since its formation in 1980, Shah said the party now had over 1,800 MLAs and 330 MPs, including those in the Rajya Sabha, and headed a government at the Centre that enjoyed full majority.

"But this is not the high point for the BJP. It will be in the apex position only when it wins Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha, among other states," he added.

Shah said after the Modi government came to power, India carried out surgical strikes across the Line of Control (LoC) to give Pakistan a befitting reply for a terrorist attack on Indian jawans.

He criticised Gandhi for stating that the BJP was trading in the blood of soldiers by taking credit for the September, 2016 Army operation.

India was the only country in the world after the US and Israel to carry out surgical strikes, Shah said. Talking about the implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, he sought to know whether illegal immigrants should be deported from the country or not.

Because of the illegal immigrants, unemployment was rising in the country, the BJP chief said, while calling them "termites" who indulged in terror activities.

After the BJP formed governments in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, each and every illegal immigrant would be thrown out of the country, he said. Attacking the Congress over the issue, Shah sought to know why the opposition party was protecting the illegal immigrants.

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**Panaji:** Two Goa Congress legislators Dayanand Sopte and Subhash Shiroadkar Monday midnight left for Delhi amidst speculations that they may join the BJP. A senior BJP leader said they were likely to meet BJP president Amit Shah in the national capital.

"Both the Congress MLAs will be resigning from Congress party on Tuesday and joining the BJP," a senior BJP leader told *PTI*. While Sopte, who defeated former BJP chief minister Laxmikant Parsekar in 2017 State legislative assembly election, represents Mandrem constituency, Shiroadkar was elected on a Congress ticket from





Representational image. Reuters

Shiroda constituency. Both the legislators left by a midnight flight to Delhi.

Goa health minister and BJP MLA Vishwajit Rane also left for Delhi, little before their departure. "I am going on a business trip," Sopte told reporters at the airport. Similarly, when Shirodkar

was asked whether he was joining the BJP, he responded, "You will come to know if I do it".

Goa is currently witnessing hectic political activities with Congress party petitioning President Ram Nath Kovind, seeking his intervention to ask Goa Governor Mridula Sinha to call them to form the government. BJP state core committee and party's legislature party also met in Panaji during the day. The meetings are happening at the backdrop of the poor health condition of Chief minister Manohar Parrikar, who is currently being treated by doctors from state-run Goa Medical College and Hospital at his residence at Dona Paula.

When contacted, All India Congress Committee Secretary A Chellakumar said he had spoken to both the legislators – Sopte and Shirodkar – who had assured him that they were not resigning from the party. "I spoke to both of them Monday evening and they have refused that they are resigning," he said. Congress currently has 16 MLAs in the Goa Legislative Assembly. Their strength would be reduced to 14 if two legislators resign. BJP is having 14 MLAs while three each are from Goa Forward Party, Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party and Independents. One legislator is from the NCP.

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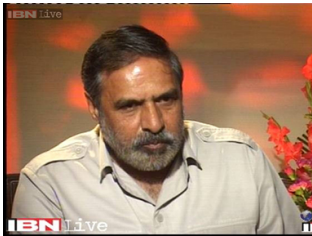
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(<https://www.firstpost.com/politics/congress-says-failure-of-seat-sharing-talks-with-bsp-for-assembly-polls-wont-affect-alliance-for-lok-sabha-election-5335111.html>)



'Question of women's dignity': Congress asks Narendra Modi to break silence over sexual misconduct charges against MJ Akbar

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# Ahead of MP polls, Digvijaya Singh claims he doesn't attend rallies because his speeches cost Congress votes


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Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijaya Singh made a reference to a speculated 'gag order' on him from the Congress party, saying that he "must refrain from giving speeches or making comments" as it results in losing votes for the party.

*CNN-News18* reported that the two-time chief minister of the state said in Bhopal that he has been asked not to speak on any issue by the Congress party. He also said that party workers must support the candidate "even if it is an enemy". According to the report, Singh has been considered as a threat to votes in favour of the Congress, ahead of the crucial Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls.

*"Jisko ticket mile, chahe dushman ko mile, jitao. Aur mera kaam kewal ek, koi prachar nahi, koi bhashan nahi. Mere bhashan dene se toh Congress ke vote kat te hain, isliye main jata nahi* (Whoever gets the ticket, even if it's an enemy, we should make him win. I only have one work; no publicity, no speeches. Congress loses votes with my speeches, which is why I don't attend rallies)," Singh was quoted as saying by *ANI*.

#BREAKING ([https://twitter.com/hashtag/BREAKING?src=hash&ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/hashtag/BREAKING?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)) -- Has @INCIndia ([https://twitter.com/INCIndia?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/INCIndia?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)) gagged @digvijaya\_28 ([https://twitter.com/digvijaya\\_28?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/digvijaya_28?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw))? Digvijaya Singh left out of @RahulGandhi ([https://twitter.com/RahulGandhi?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/RahulGandhi?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw))'s campaign in Madhya Pradesh; @JM\_Scindia ([https://twitter.com/JM\\_Scindia?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/JM_Scindia?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)) and @OfficeOfKNath ([https://twitter.com/OfficeOfKNath?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/OfficeOfKNath?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)) are the party's face for Madhya Pradesh election.

Detailed inputs by @\_pallavighosh ([https://twitter.com/\\_pallavighosh?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/_pallavighosh?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)). | #DigvijayaGagged ([https://twitter.com/hashtag/DigvijayaGagged?src=hash&ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/hashtag/DigvijayaGagged?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)) #BattleForMadhyaPradesh ([https://twitter.com/hashtag/BattleForMadhyaPradesh?src=hash&ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/hashtag/BattleForMadhyaPradesh?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)) [pic.twitter.com/GkiUgVWeKn](https://t.co/GkiUgVWeKn) (<https://t.co/GkiUgVWeKn>)

— News18 (@CNNnews18) October 16, 2018  
([https://twitter.com/CNNnews18/status/1052057636688936960?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/CNNnews18/status/1052057636688936960?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw))

Earlier this month, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati had accused Singh of being "an agent of the BJP (<https://www.firstpost.com/politics/mayawati-dumps-congress-ahead-of-2019-lok-sabha-polls-accuses-party-of-wanting-to-destroy-bsp-5310261.html>)" and refused an alliance with the Congress, announcing the BSP's decision to fight the elections on its own. She said, "Congress leaders like Digvijaya Singh do not wish for a Congress-BSP alliance. They are afraid of agencies like ED and CBI. Digvijaya, who is also a BJP agent, is giving statements that Mayawati ji is under a lot of pressure from the Centre, so she doesn't want this alliance. This is baseless."



The BSP chief made it clear that her party will fight the upcoming elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh either on its own or with local parties' support.

Singh denied Mayawati's claims of sabotage

(<https://www.firstpost.com/politics/digvijaya-singh-denies-mayawatis-allegations-of-sabotage-says-he-will-be-happy-with-bsp-congress-alliance-5313261.html>). In response to Mayawati's comments, Singh said, "I respect her. We will be very happy if we have an alliance with the Bahujan Samaj Party. At the national level, I have always supported the idea that all parties opposed to the BJP-RSS ideology should come together to defeat them."

In July, Singh was excluded from the party's important Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting, which was presided over by party president Rahul Gandhi. According to reports, the exclusion was an indication of the senior party leader being sidelined.

Over the last two years, Digvijaya — the two-term chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, had gradually been kept at a distance due to his oblique remarks that embarrassed the party (<https://www.firstpost.com/politics/digvijaya-singh-excluded-from-cwc-former-mp-cm-sidelined-over-his-under-performance-embarrassing-comments-4770411.html>) and also his under-performance when it came to helping the party's winning prospects in the states where he was made in-charge.

*With inputs from agencies*

Updated Date: Oct 16, 2018 10:46 AM

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