



## Epstein scandal exposes the murky world of top politicians, powerful class & celebs

The nexus was so strong that all happened under the nose of the agencies but it was suppressed & attempts were made to bury Epstein files for years.

The high and mighty who were in cahoots felt that they were powerful enough to keep it under the wraps and that no one would ever touch them.

Epstein died in a prison cell under suspicious circumstances.

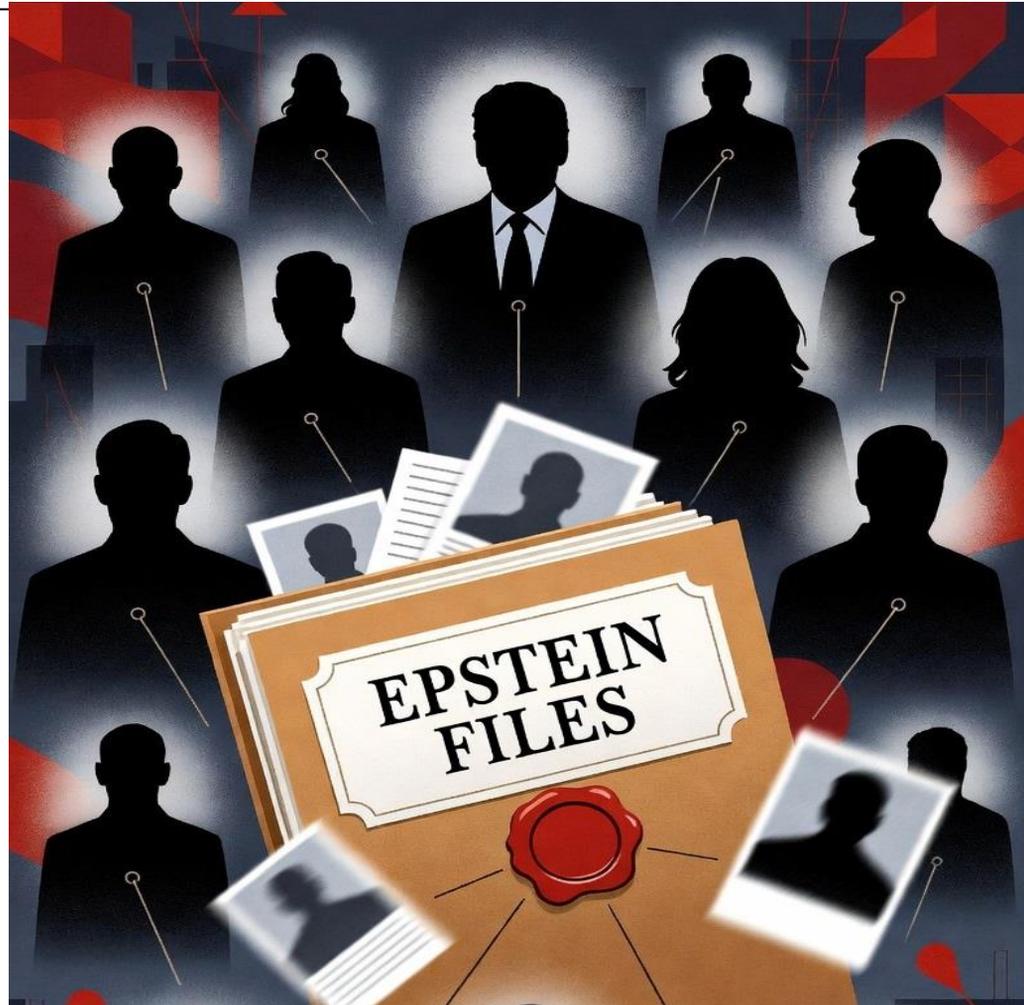
He took so many secrets with him. However, what has come out is enough to shake the world.

The Asian Tribune  
www.asiantribune.net

The Epstein files is an expose that has hit the politicians and the influential personalities in the world, like a thunderbolt. Leaders, celebrities, biz barons aside, even educators, scholars and scientists who were looked upon highly due to their contribution to society, were found to be in touch with the convicted sex offender.

Jeffrey Epstein's operation was vast—spread over different continents and he had the top people from all over the world in his net.

His network was such that the royals and the presidents were in his friend circle. He had the most powerful people in the world in his pocket and they visited his island, which was hub



of exploitation and all sorts of illegal activities.

From US to UAE and in countries across Asia as well as Europe, the names of powerful people in the governments and celebrities have been found in the documents. Their emails and conversations

Epstein have come across as damning evidences of the racket. In Europe, there have been probes and resignations in wake of the release of documents.

However, compared to UK or Norway, the situation is quite different in the United States when it comes to action.

The manner in which the entire Still, the credit is due to network was run, has put a the dedication of question mark on credibility of individuals who kept institutions.

fighting for a long time The trust in institutions has and this led to the come down. Faith in governance Department of Justice and bureaucracy has shattered releasing the documents among a large section of that run into millions of population that has been pages.

shocked and outraged. It's a relief that the The extreme and nasty acts that network got exposed. The are now known due to the need is to probe the links millions of pages that are part of of Jeffrey Epstein and files, show how the bureaucrats identify his masters as he and the agencies didn't act was pawn of a huge timely and remained soft on the racket.

perpetrators over a long time. [editor@asiantribune.net

# Anxiety among citizens as millions of names removed from voter lists in S.I.R



Misbah Abida

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Across 12 states and Union Territories, more than 6.5 crore names have disappeared from electoral rolls following the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR). In Uttar Pradesh alone, 2.89 crore voters, nearly one in every five, are missing from the draft list. This is not a marginal statistical error. It is a political earthquake. What makes this moment truly disturbing is not only the scale of the deletions, but who is being deleted, how the deletions are taking place, and why this process

increasingly resembles silent disenfranchisement rather than electoral reform. Activist Yogendra Yadav calls what India is witnessing, "the largest mass deletion of voters in the history of humanity," it does not sound like a routine complaint. It sounds like a warning. The numbers now appear to justify that alarm. It is not an annual update like the routine "summary revision" that the Election Commission carries out before elections. The last time a full-scale SIR

was conducted nationwide was in 2003. Since then, electoral rolls have been updated through summary revisions, which are meant to correct deaths, migrations and new registrations gradually. In 2025, the Election Commission revived SIR first in Bihar, followed by Uttar Pradesh, and is now extending it to across 10 states and Union Territories. Crucially, the current SIR uses 2003 as its base year, meaning voters whose names were not present in the 2003 rolls or whose

family records are incomplete, are now required to establish lineage, residency, citizenship through documents. This is where concerns begin. One of the most controversial aspects of SIR is its reliance on the 2003 electoral rolls as a reference point. Prepared long ago, 2003 rolls were compiled before large-scale digitisation and during a period when documentation standards varied widely. Using these lists as a baseline means that any mismatch, due to migration, marriage, spelling errors or missing legacy records, can result in deletion.

# Exclusion of voters is extreme injustice

**The apprehension is that the pursuit of a ‘perfect’ voter list may end up excluding genuine voters, the very people who give democracy its meaning.**

Those facing high risk during SIR include women who changed residences after marriage, migrant workers, urban poor populations, and voters added after 2003 who now find themselves unable to “prove” continuity. Rather than correcting past mistakes, critics argue, SIR appears to be reopening them.

One of the biggest concerns around the SIR is the growing use of Form 7, which is meant to remove names from the voter list in genuine cases like death, duplication or relocation.

In recent months, this form is being used in large numbers, often without voters even knowing about it. After a rule change in 2022, any voter in a constituency can now file a Form 7 objection against another voter. Political parties and activists say this has opened the door to misuse.

On January 29, the Congress wrote to the Election Commission, alleging that Form 7 is being used in a planned manner to delete eligible voters. Ground reports support these fears. ‘The Hindu’ found cases in Rajasthan and Gujarat where voters discovered Form 7 applications filed in their names, applications they say they never submitted or signed.

Once such a form is filed, Booth Level Officers are supposed to verify the claim through home visits and hearings. But with thousands of cases and limited time, this verification is often rushed. Assam is frequently cited as evidence that SIR does not necessarily result in net

deletions. But this narrative ignores what followed the draft rolls. After publication, Form 7 objections surged, allowing names to be challenged in mass. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma publicly stated that five to six lakh names should be cut and that Bengali-speaking populations should be scrutinised.

Such statements blur the line between the administrative exercise and political intent. When paired with eviction drives targeting so-called “illegal encroachers”, many of them minorities, the SIR process appears less neutral and more coercive.

Political activist Yogendra Yadav has been among the most vocal critics of the current SIR framework. He argues that the exercise marks a fundamental shift in how India understands voting rights. Earlier, a citizen was presumed eligible to vote unless proven otherwise. Today, Yadav says, citizens are required to prove that they deserve to stay on the voter list. What troubles him is not verification itself, but the kind of proof being demanded. While documents like Aadhaar, widely held across India, are often rejected, voters are asked for certificates that millions simply do not possess. For daily wage workers, urban migrants, slum residents, rural families and the homeless, this becomes less a verification process and more a bureaucratic filter that many are bound to fail. This concern has only deepened as the scale of deletions becomes clear.

Critics argue that SIR suffers from a fundamental design flaw: it prioritizes deletion over inclusion.

The SIR, officially described as a technical clean-up of voter lists, has increasingly become a political, legal and social question, not only about who gets removed from the rolls, but about who must now prove their right to remain on them. Even in Uttar Pradesh, the State Election Commission’s Panchayat roll revision deleted 1.4 crore names but added 1.88 crore, resulting in a net increase. Meanwhile, the ECI’s SIR reduced the electorate sharply. This contradiction led Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav to publicly ask:

“Which of the two SIRs is correct? Both cannot be right at the same time.”

The data emerging from SIR has shocked political observers across the spectrum. According to data, around 6.56 crore voters, approximately 13% of the electorate, have already been deleted across states that underwent the revision. Nowhere is the impact more dramatic than Uttar Pradesh, where 2.89 crore names, nearly 18% of the electorate, have been dropped from the draft rolls. In Bihar, 65 lakh deletions triggered national outrage. Tamil Nadu recorded around 15% deletions, while Gujarat and other states saw significant reductions as well.

Political analyst Ashutosh has questioned how such massive discrepancies could exist if routine electoral maintenance had been conducted properly. “If 18–20% of voter are

names are inaccurate, who is responsible for allowing such a flawed list to remain in force for years?” he asked, calling the situation a case of institutional failure rather than discovery.

Migrants appear among the worst hit. Maulana Khalid Rasheed Farangi Mahali, a prominent Islamic cleric from Lucknow, has pointed out that Muslim men working in Gulf countries are also being disproportionately excluded. Although they remain eligible voters in their home constituencies, many were unable to participate in the SIR process due to poor awareness of the online procedures and as a result of short timelines.

The reports from Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh also show similar exclusion of migrant agricultural labourers and displaced tribal populations who were absent during enumeration visits.

Muslim voters have seen sharp declines in several regions.

ABP News ground reports document cases where voters who completed all formalities still found their applications cancelled or their names missing from draft rolls.

The Bengali speaking Muslims and the homeless among the community appear more vulnerable.

The pursuit of a ‘perfect’ voter list may end up excluding imperfect but genuine voters, the very people who give democracy its meaning.

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## BNP wins election, faces challenge to meet expectations of electorate in Bangladesh

**The Asian Tribune**  
[www.asiantribune.net](http://www.asiantribune.net)

NEW DELHI: The elections are over in Bangladesh. After a gap of 15 years, the BNP has emerged as the biggest party and is all set to form the government.

After student-led protests had brought the Sheikh Hasina's regime down, the BNP was a clear favourite to win the election.

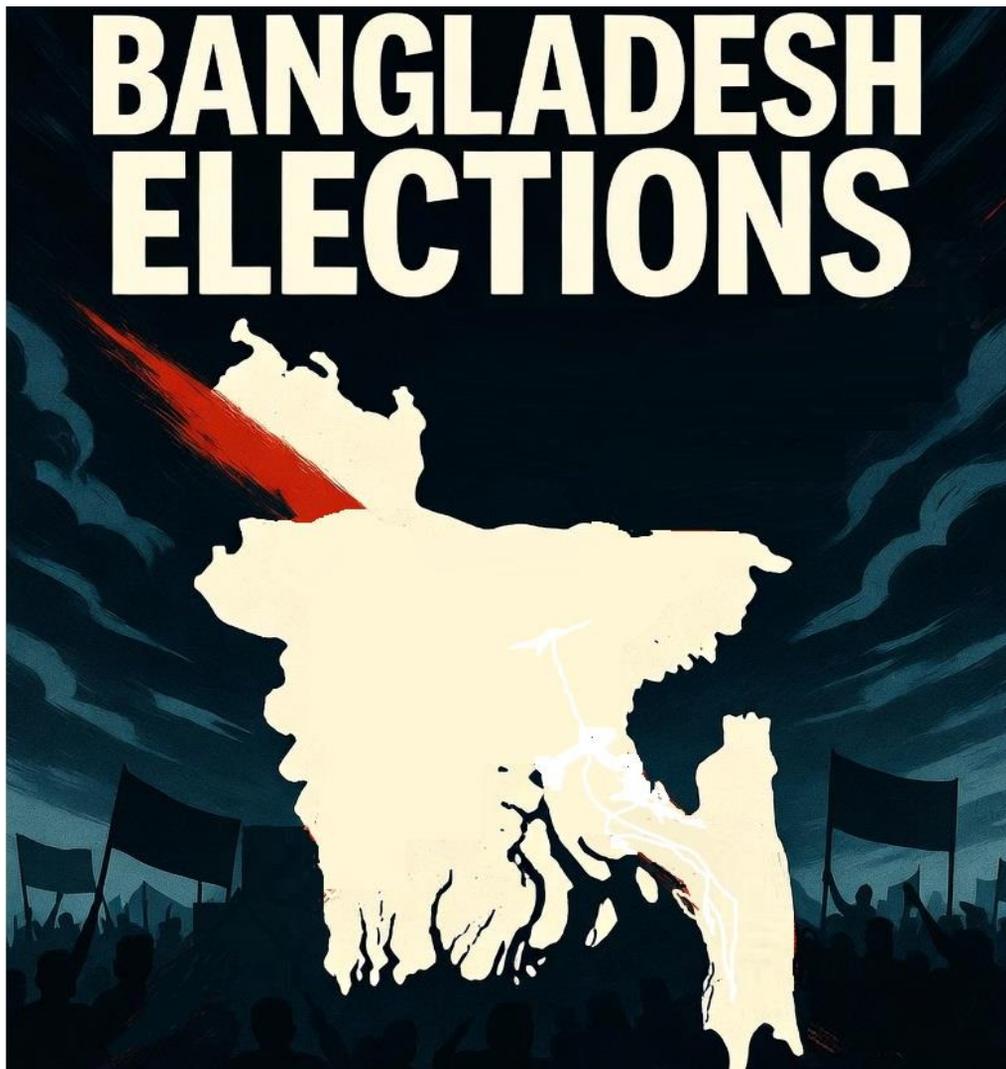
Eighteen months after she was forced to leave the country after uprising, the elections were held and Tarique Rahman led Bangladesh Nationalist Party has emerged victorious.

The BNP has won 212 out of 299 seats. Awami League was banned from contesting. The Jamaat E Islami has also made substantial gains and it has emerged as the second biggest party.

The party has won 68 seats and Jamaat's block has 77 seats in the Bangladesh parliament. Sheikh Hasina's rule was seen as authoritarian.

Bangladesh is an important nation that has a strategic location. It has two big neighbours, China and India.

In recent years, Sino-Bangladesh relations have strengthened. As long as Sheikh Hasina was at the helm, Bangladesh was seen as close to India because of Awami League's tilt.

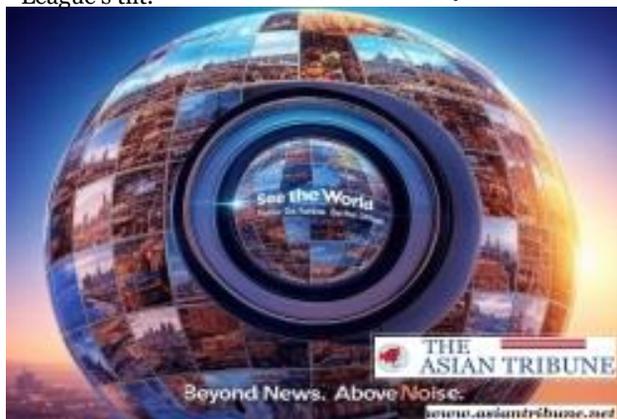


India & B'desh are neighbours as well as strong partners. The two countries will cooperate and reset the relations. Already there are indications

in this regard. Bangladesh is an emerging economy and it is a key nation in South Asia, which also serves as a door to the East Asia.

BNP has secured power and it faces the task to restore faith of citizens in the government.

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