WHAT INDIA PROTESTS FOR

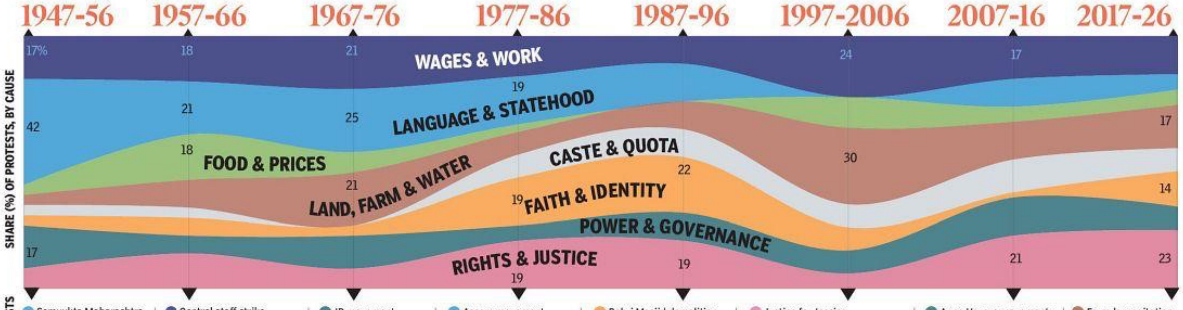
BANDH DHARNA MORCHA



From redrawing state boundaries to changing women's safety laws, how much of modern India has been shaped by protest? We analysed **eight decades of TOI archives** to understand how Indians have challenged those in power — and what changed when they did

People don't stop protesting as democracies mature. In fact, they demand more of their govts — not less — because they can. And what people protest tells us something about the country they live in — how its economy is changing, who holds political power, which policies are failing and who feels left out. But the relationship works both ways. Govts and social change shape public demands, while protests can reshape laws, institutions and even the country's map. Seen across eight decades, India's protests reveal how the country's biggest arguments have changed — and which ones have never really been settled. The CJP and SIR agitations add two recent chapters.

WHAT EACH DECADE'S PROTESTS WERE ABOUT



5 KEY PROTESTS

1947-56	1957-66	1967-76	1977-86	1987-96	1997-2006	2007-16	2017-26
Samyukta Maharashtra	Central staff strike	JP movement	Assam movement	Babri Masjid demolition	Justice for Jessica	Anna Hazare movement	Farm-law agitation
Goa satyagraha	Kerala 'liberation struggle'	Telangana agitation	Gorkhaland agitation	Anti-Mandal agitation	Singur and Nandigram	Telangana (KCR fast)	Anti-CAA stir
Praja Parishad agitation	Punjabi Suba	Railway strike	Bombay textile strike	Advani's rath yatra	Medha Patkar's Narmada fast	Gujjar quota stir	Wrestlers' sit-in
Bombay textile strike	Anti-Hindi agitation	Naxalbari	Akali morcha	Hazratbal siege protests	Anti-OBC-quota strike	Nirbhaya protests	Hathras protests
Akali slogan morcha	Hazratbal relic agitation	Jai Andhra	Gujarat quota stir	Bodoland agitation	VHP shila daan	Kashmir unrest 2010	Sabarimala protests



Samyukta Maharashtra protest (Nov 22, 1955)

1947 to the 60s: Independence had settled who governed India, but not what the new Republic should look like — or what it should deliver. Language movements fought to redraw state boundaries, from Andhra to Maharashtra and Punjab. Workers were striking for better wages and bonuses, while food shortages and rising prices brought others onto the streets



JP movement (Mar 20, 1974)

Getty Images

Anti-quota stir hots up in Bihar

(Continued from Page 1)

In Delhi, hundreds of students, protesting against the implementation of the Mandal commission report, were lathi-charged and

1990 onwards: By late 1990s, protesters were asking whether institutions were delivering what citizens had been promised. Farmers in Singur resisted land acquisition; Anna Hazare's anti-corruption movement jolted the govt; Nirbhaya gang-rape protests demanded safer streets; farmers at Delhi's borders sought rollback of farm laws; wrestlers flagged sexual harassment

Since our Jun '26 cutoff, GenZ exam-leak agitation saw education minister Dharmendra Pradhan resign. Opposition rallies now demand the chief election commissioner's resignation over voter-roll revisions

WHO LED: POLITICAL PARTIES, 'APOLITICAL' YOUTH

Political parties led almost 50% of protests in 1950s. Then came industrial workers and language and statehood campaigners. Recently, unaffiliated youth (at least at the time of protest, like erstwhile leaders of AAP) have accounted for a larger share. Students remain a recurring presence

Protests by participant group (Share of each decade in %)

	1947-56	1957-66	1967-76	1977-86	1987-96	1997-06	2007-16	2017-26
Party cadres	54	39	25	25	22	18	30	35
Industrial workers	29	21	13	9	7	15	17	9
Language & regional	29	25	25	19	19	6	21	9
Students & youth	17	21	29	22	15	9	26	29
Religious groups	13	25	13	19	22	12	9	12
Farmers	4	4	17	6	11	15	9	20
Professionals	4	0	0	13	11	18	11	14
Women	4	0	4	3	11	3	4	8
Caste blocs	0	4	0	3	11	0	13	9
Govt employees	0	11	17	16	11	15	4	3

MOST PEACEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE NOW

Police or Army firing was recorded in 46% of protests in 1947-56, compared with 14% in 2017-26. Over the past decade, in fact, 38% of protests drew concessions and 34% led to talks. But 22% also saw mass arrests, 22% lathi-charge or tear gas, and 18% bans, censorship or internet restrictions

Protests by type of govt response (Share of each decade in %)

	1947-56	1957-66	1967-76	1977-86	1987-96	1997-06	2007-16	2017-26
Police or Army firing	46	50	38	34	37	33	19	14
Mass arrests	38	43	42	38	26	9	17	22
Concession	29	43	29	34	33	33	45	38
Talks	25	36	17	22	33	21	43	34
Lathi-charge, tear gas	25	18	17	9	11	15	15	22
Inquiry commission	25	18	8	13	7	27	19	14
Detention laws (MISA, NSA)	13	18	13	13	4	9	2	18
Curfew or Section 144	17	11	17	6	15	9	15	20
Army or paramilitary	8	14	25	19	22	6	13	12
Bans, censorship, net cuts	4	4	8	0	11	0	6	18

Totals don't add up to 100 due to overlap in categories

WHEN DID PROTEST SUCCEED THE MOST?

54% of protests from the late 1960s to the mid-1970s were crushed, called off or left unresolved

60% of protests in the 1990s and after 2000 ended in success, either fully or partly

For some protests, victory came after years, even decades. Telangana movement went on for decades before the state was created in 2014. Andhra Pradesh was created a year after Potti Sreeramulu, an Indian freedom fighter who played a pivotal role in the creation of the state, died during his fast for the cause in 1952

HOW WE DID THIS: We examined around **4,600 TOI reports from 1947 to June 2026**, analysing 280 protests by cause, participants, govt response and outcome. We selected major movements based on news coverage, duration and reported toll, and checked external sources decade-wise and issue-wise for omissions. While not exhaustive, this offers a reasonably comprehensive picture of major protests that drew national attention

INQUIZITIVE

JOY BHATTACHARJYA

1 Agatti, Bangaram, Kadmat and Minicoy are all part of which part of India, whose name implies that it consists of many islands?

2 The original symbol for the peace sign involved a specific bird and a branch of a tree. If the bird is the dove, the branch is from which specific tree, also referred to in an English phrase?

3 Which Indian percussion instrument's name comes from the Sanskrit words for clay and limb? It is the primary accompaniment in a Carnatic music ensemble.

4 Other than cricketers and administrators, which Indian cricket ground also has stands named after Col Neelakantan Nair, Havildar Hangpan Dada, Lt Col Dhan Singh Thapa and Subedar Joginder Singh, the last two being Param Vir Chakra awardees?

5 Which hugely popular film and its first sequel are both about incidents that take place on Christmas Eve and involve NYPD officer John McClane?

6 The formula '220 minus a person's age' is used as a rough estimate to determine the maximum safe working rate of which human body function?

7 The Guide is a 1958 novel by author R K Narayan, later adapted into a hugely successful film. In the original work, in which city is the story based?

8 What are the two names that complete this list: Ajman, Ras Al Khaimah, Umm Al Quwain, Fujairah and Abu Dhabi?

9 Which Indian Nobel laureate was given his name by another Nobel laureate?

10 Rose-Ringed, Alexandrine, Plum-Headed and Red-Breasted are all varieties of which specific bird, found in almost all parts of India?

ANSWERS

1 | Lakshadweep (one lakh islands)
2 | Olive (offering the olive branch)
3 | Mridangam
4 | Eden Gardens
5 | Die Hard, and Die Hard 2
6 | Heartbeat
7 | Malgudi, the fictional city where most of his works were based
8 | Dubai and Sharjah, the Seven Emirates
9 | Amartya Sen, named by Rabindranath Tagore
10 | The parakeet

TIMES NATION

23 killed, 20 injured in bus-truck collision near Kaziranga in Assam

Kaziranga (Assam): At least 23 people died and 20 others were injured in a head-on collision between a minibus and a container truck near Kaziranga National Park in Assam on Friday, officials said.

Out of the deceased, two were women, and many were college students who were returning from their classes, a police officer said.

The accident occurred at Rangajan near Hathikuli Tea Estate in Kohora range on National Highway-715 when the passenger vehicle collided with the truck, a senior officer said.

"The minibus was going from Golaghat to Nagaon, while the container truck was going towards Upper Assam, police said.

Earlier, Golaghat Senior Superintendent of Police Swapnaneel Deka told PTI that all senior civil and police officials have rushed to the spot to help rescue the people.

He said that the exact number of people travelling in the bus is not immediately known.



PTI

Assam cabinet Minister Atul Bora and others at site after a head-on collision between a minibus and a container truck near Kaziranga National Park, in Kaziranga, Assam, Friday

Assam Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Atul Bora, who is also the local MLA, reached the site immediately and was supervising the relief and rescue operations.

The injured people were taken to the Kohora Model Hospital, and most of the critically injured were referred to civil hospitals in Bokakhat and Golaghat, and the Jorhat Medical College and Hospital, another senior official said.

"The bus was running at very high speed, violating restrictions imposed near the park. We think that the accident took place when the driver of the minibus lost control, and the vehicle collided with the container truck," he added.

In a social media post, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said he is deeply distressed by the tragic accident in Kaziranga earlier during the day.

"The scale of this loss has shaken all of us, and my heart goes out to every family that has lost a loved one. No words can ease their pain, but I want them to know that they are not alone. All of Assam stands with them in this hour of grief," he added.

Sarma said the foremost priority now is ensuring the injured receive the best possible medical care without delay.

"Hon'ble Minister Shri @ATULBORA2 is at the site and personally overseeing the relief arrangements. I pray for the swift recovery of the injured and for strength for the bereaved families," he added. AGENCIES

Fresh snowfall in Himachal, several roads shut

Shimla: Higher reaches and mountain passes in Himachal Pradesh's tribal district of Lahaul and Spiti have received fresh snowfall, triggering cold wave conditions in adjoining valleys and prompting police to issue a travel advisory.

Continuous snowfall has been reported since late Thursday at Shinku La Pass, Baralacha Pass, Kunzum Top and other high-altitude areas. Snowfall has also started in the higher reaches of Manali, reports reaching here said.

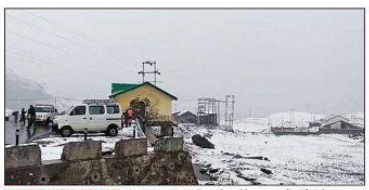
Road conditions in the high-altitude regions of Lahaul and Spiti have become unsafe for vehicular movement, following which traffic towards Shinku La and Baralacha passes has been suspended, according to an advisory issued by police on Friday.

Vehicular movement towards Kunzum Top has also been suspended, while the route towards Chhatru has been closed. In emergencies, only 4X4 vehicles equipped with proper snow chains may be permitted, subject to an assessment of road and weather conditions, the advisory said.

Snowfall has also led to the closure of roads connecting Rohtang to Koksar, Darcha to Sarchu, Grampphu to Batal, Losar to Batal and Rohtang to Kadhu Nullah in the district.

The general public and tourists have been advised to strictly follow advisories issued by the district administration and police and avoid travelling to high-altitude areas until weather and road conditions improve.

Vehicular movement is being restricted beyond Gulaba in Manali. Videos of the snowfall have surfaced on social media, raising hopes of an increase in tourist footfall among stakeholders in the sector. "Tourists from the plains, particularly Delhi and NCR, have already been making a beeline for Himachal Pradesh's hill resorts to escape the post-Diwali air pollution. The fresh snowfall is expected to add to the state's appeal," said Monty who is associated with adventure tourism in Manali. AGENCIES



WINTER WONDERLAND: A snow-covered road and houses after fresh snowfall at Rohtang Pass and Marhi in Himachal Pradesh on Friday

Army rescues 900 stranded in Sikkim snow

Gangtok: The Indian Army's Trishakti Corps has rescued over 900 tourists and locals who were stranded at Nathula, Baba Mandir and Tsomgo Lake in East Sikkim following heavy snowfall, officials said on Friday.

The rescue operation was carried out amid challenging weather conditions, with heavy snowfall disrupting movement and leaving a large number of tourists and locals stranded in the high-altitude areas on Thursday, officials said.

The army personnel rescued those affected and ensured their safe evacuation from the snow-covered region popular with tourists, they said.

Nathula is a pass bordering China; Baba Mandir is a shrine that honours Capt Harbhajan Singh, whose spirit, locals believe, continues to protect the international border even after his death while on duty in 1968; and Tsomgo or Chhangu Lake is a high-altitude glacial lake. PTI

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AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6(2) & 8(6) & 9(1)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) & 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s)/mortgagor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** basis for recovery of below mentioned amount/s. The details of Borrower/s / Mortgagor/Guarantor/s / Secured Asset/s/Dues / Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below:

Date of Auction: 19.12.2026 | **Last Date of EMD Submission: 18.12.2026 upto 4.00 P.M.**

Sl.	Name & address of Borrower/s /Guarantor/s/ Mortgagor (s)	Detailed description of the Immovable property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues	1.Date of e-Auction 2.Time of e-Auction (Start Time to End Time)	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)/ Bid Increase Amt	Status of Possession (Constructive/ Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time
1.	**Mr. Lalit Narayan Mishra S/o Rajendra Prasad Mishra,** R/o Near Pnb, Sanjay Nagar Akbarpur, Kanpur Dehat Uttar Pradesh-209101	All the part and parcel of the land and House constructed over Pvt Plot. no. 18, area 149.33 sq.mtr. carved out of Gata no. 88 from Total Area 2.4780 Hect. Situated at Aghukamalpur, Tehsil Akbarpur, Dist: Kanpur Dehat in the name of Mr. Lalit Narayan Mishra, **Boundaries: East:** 15 ft wide Road, **West:** Remaining Land of Seller, **North:** Plot of Arun Rathore, **South:** Remaining Land of Seller	**Rs. 31,59,432.87** plus further interest w.e.f. 09.11.2026 thereon at contractual rate with monthly rests plus costs and expenses till date of payment.	**Date of e-Auction: 19.12.2026 Time of E-auction: 12:00 PM to 02:00PM**	Reserve Price: Rs. 11,81,000/- Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Amount: Rs. 1,18,100/- Bid Increase Amount: Rs. 10,000.00	Constructive	17.12.2026 Start Time: 04.00 PM to End Time: 05.00 PM.

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link **https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction and Baanknet.com.** Also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised officer on Mobile No. **8601875717.**

Date: 13.11.2026 **Place: Kanpur Dehat** **Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda**