

A System That Has Earned Trust

India conducts the largest democratic exercise in human history. Nearly a billion electors vote at over a million polling stations. The Commission draws its authority from Article 324 of the Constitution. The framers deliberately placed the electoral roll beyond the reach of the executive. They entrusted it to an independent Commission.

That design was debated and settled in the Constituent Assembly. No single party can now rewrite it to suit its electoral arithmetic.

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is part of that very design. Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 empowers the Commission to revise the rolls at any time. Intensive revisions have been carried out repeatedly since the first general elections. The last SIR was completed about two decades back. No one called those revisions a conspiracy.

The purpose is simple. Remove the names of the dead, the duplicate entries of the same name, the names of those who have shifted their residence to another place and to include the names of every eligible citizen. Two decades of migration and urbanisation have left the rolls in need of correction. A clean roll protects every genuine vote.

The highest court in the land has spoken. The Supreme Court upheld the SIR as lawful and within the Commission's powers. It held that the exercise was founded on a legitimate purpose. It found adequate safeguards of notice, hearing, objection and appeal. It held that the SIR advances the constitutional imperative of free and fair elections.

“The campaign of casting suspicion continues unabated, regardless of facts or consequences.”

This framework has delivered peaceful transfer of power, time and again. Governments have changed at the Centre and in the States. Opposition parties have won ny of these contests. They accepted those verdicts without complaint, setting a powerful example of democratic conduct—one that has been widely admired around the world.

The protocols have not changed. The rules were not written in 2025. They were written in 1950. The uproar over SIR appears both sudden and remarkably convenient.

Trust is the currency of democracy. Tell citizens often enough that their vote does not count, and they stop believing in the ballot. When the ballot loses meaning, the street gains it. Unrest begins with a narrative. Anarchic and fringe elements then occupy the vacuum. Some are homegrown. Some take their cues from beyond our borders.

The responsibility to sustain public confidence in democracy is therefore shared. Institutions earn that confidence through transparency, political parties pursue their grievances through evidence and due process, and the media help citizens distinguish

verified facts from conjecture. Citizens must examine claims before accepting or sharing them, and protesters must exercise their rights peacefully and within the framework of the law. Democratic accountability depends on scrutiny that seeks answers and reform that strengthens the system. It is in that spirit that we make the following appeal.

Our Appeal

To political parties: Contest elections. Do not delegitimise them. Take your grievances to the Commission and the courts, with evidence.

To the media: Do not amplify conjecture and speculation without first scrutinising and verifying the claims you report. A headline is not evidence, and repetition does not make an allegation the truth.

To constitutional bodies: Stand firm, remain transparent, address legitimate concerns with clarity, and stay above the political fray.

To our fellow citizens: Verify the facts before acting on them. Do not let anyone convince you that your vote is meaningless. Your vote is your voice, and it matters.

Constitutional bodies do not belong to any government; they belong to the people of India. An attack on their credibility is, ultimately, an attack on the institutions that safeguard the citizens' democratic rights. We call upon every Indian to stand up for and defend these institutions.

We remain, in service of the Constitution,

Concerned Citizens of India

(Signatories)

S.No	Title	Name	Designation
1	Justice	Hemant Gupta	Former Judge, Supreme Court of India
2	Justice	Pankaj Mittal	Former Judge, Supreme Court of India
3	Justice	B C Patel	Former Chief Justice, J&K and Delhi High Court
4	Justice	Subhro Kamal Mukherjee	Former Chief Justice, Karnataka High Court
5	Justice	Permod Kohli	Former Chief Justice, Sikkim High Court
6	Justice	S.M Soni	Former Judge Gujarat High Court & Lokayukta State of Gujarat
7	Justice	S.N. Dhingra	Former Judge, Delhi High Court
8	Justice	Krishna S Dixit	Former Judge, Karnataka & Orissa High Court
9	Justice	Sridhar Rao	Former Judge, Karnataka High Court
10	Justice	R.S. Rathore	Former Judge, Rajasthan High Court
11	Justice	Prashant Kumar Agarwal	Former Judge, Rajasthan High Court
12	Justice	K K Trivedi	Former Judge, M.P High Court
13	Justice	D K Paliwal	Former Judge, M P High Court
14	Justice	Rakesh Saxena	Former Judge, M.P High Court
15	Justice	Rajendra Kumar	Former Judge, M P High Court
16	Justice	Subhash Samvatsar	Former Judge, M P High Court
17	Justice	Ved Prakash Sharma	Former Judge, M P High Court

18	Justice	Alok Verma	Former Judge, M P High Court
19	Justice	I S Shrivastava	Former Judge, M P High Court
20	Justice	Subhash Sakrikar	Former Judge, M P High Court
21	Justice	S P Khare	Former Judge, M P High Court
22	Justice	P N Singh	Former Judge, M P High Court
23	Justice	Devender Kr Arora	Former Judge, Allahabad High Court
24	Justice	Surendra Vikram Singh Rathore	Former Judge, Allahabad High Court
25	Justice	S N Srivastav	Former Judge Allahbad High Court & Lokayukta, State of Chattisgarh
26	Justice	Ramesh Kumar Merathia	Former Judge, Jharkhand High Court
27	Justice	Karam Chand Puri	Former Judge, Punjab & Haryana High Court
28	Justice	(Mrs) Raj Rahul Garg	Former Judge, Punjab & Haryana High Court
29	Justice	C V Nagarjuna Reddy	Former Judge, Andhra High Court
30	Justice	Vinod Goel	Former Judge, Delhi High Court
31	Justice	G P Mittal	Former Judge, Delhi High Court
32	Justice	V B Gupta	Former Judge, Delhi High Court
33	Justice	Deepa Sharma	Former Judge, Delhi High Court
34	Justice	P.N Ravinderan	Former Judge, Kerala High Court
35	Justice	Jyothindranath	Former Judge, Kerala High Court
36	Justice	Lokpal Singh	Former Judge, Utrakhand High Court
37	Justice	Subash Chandra	Former Judge, Utrakhand High Court

38	Justice	Vivek Bharti Sharma	Former Judge, Utrakhand High Court
39	Justice	Narender Kumar	Institutions
40	Justice	Rajender Kumar	Former Dist & Session Judge & Adjudicating Officer, Gurugram RERA Authority
41	Justice	Subhash Batra	Former Member (Legal), PNGRB
42	Justice	J A P Shrivastava	Former Judge MP High Court