

DELHI RESOLUTION

May 28, 2024

A High Level Broad Consultative Meeting of grassroots mass movement, civil society and political parties was held in Bengaluru (21.5.2024) and Delhi (28.5.2024), joined by informed & concerned citizens and prominent members of civil society from various walks of life.

We have all been closely involved in the ongoing electoral process, voter awareness, booth-level vigilance and accountability and transparency from all statutory bodies including and especially the Election Commission of India (ECI).

We would like to state with concern that at no point in the history of the Indian Republic has the citizen's faith in institutions of democracy been at such an all-time low. Given this, and the ongoing subversion of the autonomy and independence of functioning institutions of governance, we wish to collectively alert fellow citizens from across the country on the days and weeks ahead.

Widespread voices of resistance against all policies of the current regime have been reflected in real issues of grave of threat to the Constitution, agrarian distress, rampant economic inequality and impoverishment, price rise, unemployment and crimes against women being thrown up as the issues of the day during the election campaign, rejecting the divisive efforts of the current regime. Apart from setting the narrative, this extraordinary and widespread mobilisation of India's civil society in the 18th Lok Sabha Polls has ensured that it is on these crucial issues that votes are cast and the present care-taker regime evaluated.

We collectively express our deep concern at possibilities of manipulation in the counting process and the transition period that follows thereafter. On behalf of the electorate of India, we would like to affirm that if the COUNTING OF VOTES AND DECLARATION OF RESULTS is done freely, fairly and transparently the MANDATE will be clearly against the policies of this regime. Moreover, if this mandate is fairly implemented, change is definitely assured to the People of India.

However, we are extremely concerned about the process that follows hereon and express our concern about whether this process will proceed smoothly, democratically and constitutionally.

The entire period of this 18th Lok Sabha election, particularly after the declaration of polls and the operation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) been marked by a hitherto unprecedented violations of the Constitution, Indian law and the MCC and also blatant instances of evident malpractices in electioneering. There is genuine apprehension and fear that these levels of structured manipulations will continue both during the counting process and thereafter, failing to respect the mandate of the people.

The people of India are prepared and are standing by. The people of India, our farmers, youth, minorities and public intellectuals have fought back the repressive policies of this regime for close to 10 years despite the brute use of state force -- lathis, teargas, drones and incarceration. We have fought this election campaign shoulder-to-shoulder with people's organisations, farmers and workers movements, civil society and political parties. We have been witness to an empowering sense of unity among all sections of the people of this country.

It is the People of India who elect a Government. No one is above the people. As the Preamble of our Constitution states, *We The People of India*, are sovereign. We assert our voice and stake in the future of the country and the united struggles of all its people across gender and communities.

We believe that the mandate based on this collective will and resistance to anti-people policies has been built up with collective participation from across the country on the shoulders of multiple mass movements, civil society organisations and groups.

Here, in New Delhi on May 28, 2024, as in Bengaluru on May 21, 2024, we hereby resolve to defend our Mandate:

We thereby resolve:

1. We the People Are closely watching the Counting Process scheduled for June 4, 2024.
2. We strongly remind all political parties to fulfil their involvement and role in the Counting Process.
3. We will reject any mandate based on the manipulation of the EVM-VVPAT's or by horse-trading..
4. We remind the Supreme Court of India of its duties to ensure free and fair elections.
5. We strongly impress upon the President of India to ensure a smooth formation of government based on a free and fair result.
6. We strongly impress upon the members of the civil services, police, security and armed forces to stand by the people's mandate which is part of their oath of loyalty and allegiance to the Constitution.
7. We urge that whoever comes to power will abide by, protect and uphold the Constitution.

In order to ensure that the will of the people is preserved, we resolve to form:

Three KEY INTERVENTIONS and their mechanisms are put forward:

A VIGILANT VOTER TASK FORCE

This force will consist of those present in the room and beyond based on the outcome of the Bangalore meeting on May 21 and all interventions made at the 28th of May meeting.

A. Retain and Build upon the Narrative as set by the People

1. Build a Reality based counter narrative that counters the pre-determined narrative of an entrenched commercial media committed to this Regime
2. Encourage Independent Media and Social Sector Groups to also put out their own ground level polls and share this widely through social media.
3. To ensure that an alternative set of coherent opinions is built up to counter the tactic of psychological manipulation by the government of the day that misuses and manipulates media (through exit polls and the like)

B. Citizens Vigilance on Counting Day (June 4, 2024)

1. Citizens Involvement in the Counting Process to support the political opposition will continue at the local level in at least 225-250 Constituencies countrywide on June 4, 2024.
2. We are determined to work closely with political parties from the Opposition to motivate Counting Agents to ensure a methodical, step-by-step counting process that is not rushed through by any intimidatory and bullying tactics of by the Regime.
3. We remind the ECI and all its State Level Officers right down to every booth that they owe their allegiance to the Indian People and the Indian Constitution not to the government in power.
4. Write letters to District Collectors/Deputy Commissioners/District Magistrates and other officials who function as Returning Officers as well as those appointed by Election Commission as Observers, reminding them of their Constitutional Obligations and Duties.
5. Citizens will be mobilised across the country in sensitive booths to ensure that the Vote Counting Process is by the Law and Rule Book, Free and Fair. This citizens involvement, *Ginti ki Chaukidaari*, will be visible state-wise outside counting stations
6. We will create a **Counting Vigilance Manual** to facilitate this coordinated endeavour.

C. Transition Watch Commission (as results are declared)

7. Hold multiple press meets across the country in every state - on free & fair counting and share the resolutions passed at this meeting.
8. Sensitise national and international media and all independent institutions on the ongoing processes and citizens' involvement.
9. Mass Letter Writing to the President of India, Smt Draupadi Murmu, Chief Justice of India (CJI) and Political parties. (Political Parties need to be also prepared forming their own Coordination Committees across states and centrally
10. Prepare and Coordinate with mass organisations and civil society to remain alert and also exercise their peaceful right to protest if any processes violates the Indian Constitution and the Law. It is the Political Parties in the Opposition that must be prepared to march in resistance to any subversion of the mandate.
11. Approach the Supreme Court of India as and when required and expect a response based on the Constitution
12. All MPs are hereby reminded that the People will not accept them engaging in horse trading

We invite each and every voter and citizen of India to ensure that the mandate of the People of India prevails and is respected and reflected.

Delhi

May 28, 2024.