

SCRAP SIR: RESTORE ELECTORAL INTEGRITY

A well-attended and representative online public assembly met on Saturday, October 3, 2026, following the continued and brazen violations of basic electoral and voting rights by the existing Election Commission of India (ECI) and public disclosures in this regard that have erupted in expressions of public anger and protest. Over 80 individuals representing close to 200 organisations were present.

RESOLUTIONS

Passed at a Public Online National Assembly of Individuals and Organisations on Saturday, October 3, 2026

Organised by: People First, Citizen for Justice & Peace (CJP) & Vote for Democracy (VFD)

Well-Formulated Demands for the Public Campaigns/ Protests

1. **CEC GYANESH KUMAR MUST RESIGN:**
Resignation/ removal Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)
(Impeachment is the legal provision for this process if there is no resignation)
2. **SIR MUST BE SCRAPPED:**
Completely reverse SIR. All future elections to be based on 2024 rolls + any revisions made as per law and past practice for addition/deletion for the past 2 years.
3. **ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA MUST BE DISBANDED**
4. **2023 ACT THAT GRANTS IMMUNITY TO ECI ETC FROM PROSECUTION & NON-TRANSPARENT APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS BE REPEALED:**
Repeal 2023 law giving commissioners immunity for decisions taken.
5. **RE-ENACT A LAW FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ALL ELECTION COMMISSIONERS:**
This new law should ensure that the Appointment Committee and procedure is broad-based, diverse and ensures some accountability: Appointment by/through a broad based committee of 8-10 people containing two government nominees, two opposition nominees, two past election commissioners (not holding any position given by govt.), two representatives of the higher judiciary (retired judges of high/supreme court not holding any position). The Final Selection should be by two-third majority.
6. **ANNUL AND RE-DO ELECTIONS CONDUCTED AFTER THE SIR 2025 PROCESS:**
Elections to be conducted based on Electoral rolls verified and transparent after annual Summary Revision of 2025 and 2026 as the case may be.

7. TRANSPRENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY IN ECI FUNCTIONING:

Complete transparency and public access to all data in machine readable form as soon as it is available to the EC both during elections and during normal times. In particular all electoral rolls, all forms filled by presiding officers during elections, counting related data.

8. MAKE SOURCE CODES(S) PUBLIC:

Source code of EVM software, ECInet/EROnet software and any other s/w used for any sanity checks of the electoral roll (e.g. logical discrepancy) should be in the public domain.

Resolution: Legal challenge to SIR-driven electoral rolls

Can the SIR in its present form, given the evidence unleashed from the ground and through investigations by independent media in the past months since (and before) May 2026 pass the test of constitutionality?

The current SIR is clearly based on the principle of *exclusion* not *inclusion*. While the SC has upheld the Constitutionality of the SIR in its May 2026 judgement, minute documentation/evidence needs to be deployed to re-visit the process of arriving at this conclusion. To do so, narrowly constructed demands/prayers/challenges may be more effective to finally **get the court to arrive at this conclusion.**

The power of the ECI is being (mis)used illegally and the oversight mechanism needed for the conduct of such a sensitive and crucial exercise not there. This can be established by showing how requirements in law (Representation of People's Act, 1951) and Electoral Rules, 1960 and subsequent others have either not been followed or blatantly violated.

This brings us to the crucial question of the Appointment of the Election Commission *and the Constitutional Validity of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023—already under challenge before the Supreme Court.* Not only should this law be struck down but the any new law in its place should ensure that the Appointment Committee and procedure is broad-based, diverse and ensures some accountability: Appointment by/through a broad based committee of 8-10 people containing two government nominees, two opposition nominees, two past election commissioners (not holding any position given by govt.), two representatives of the higher judiciary (retired judges of high/supreme court not holding any position). The Final Selection should be by two-third majority.

Already, there exists a challenge before the Supreme Court arising from *The Indian Express* September 23, 2026, investigative report on the absence of unanimity within the ECI. The *IE* and the subsequent legal challenge flag 14 14 crucial decisions relating to the ongoing SIR taken by the CEC reportedly in violation of law and rules and without seeking the statutorily required procedural unanimity within the ECI. Ten objections to this were recorded in ten months of the ECI's functioning, it has been reported. The petition challenges the legality of

these alleged unilateral decisions by a constitutionally mandated multi-member body, seeking scrutiny of the Commission's primary records and questioning, inter alia, the alleged unilateral modification of Form 6, centralisation of electoral-roll databases, changes to the SIR process, failure to restore eligible voters through ECINet, decisions concerning electoral-roll revision and appeals, and other steps allegedly undertaken despite recorded dissent by the two Election Commissioners. The challenge also raises concerns over compliance with the statutory requirement that decisions of the Commission be taken unanimously or, failing unanimity, by majority.

On October 5, 2026, the Supreme Court issued notice to the Union Government, ECI, CEC and concerned officials, *on all counts raised*, while declining to grant an ex-parte order suspending the CEC. The Court has therefore left the substantive challenge open, with the legality of the alleged unilateral decisions to be examined after the respondents place their records and responses before the Court. This Assembly resolves to interact with the advocates and petitioners involved in this challenge to ensure comprehensive arguments are placed before the apex court in the days ahead.

Hence,

This assembly resolves to assist, explore appropriate legal remedies in this direction. Any such legal intervention must be evidence-based and narrowly framed, from recent evidence available, it is clear that the against electoral processes conducted on the basis of disputed or procedurally defective electoral rolls generated through the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process since June 2025. We resolve to collate and document with particular attention to documented patterns of exclusion, bulk applications for deletion, the use of Forms 6 and 7, software-driven exclusions, pendency of appeals and the denial of effective opportunities for verification and hearing. The Supreme Court's May 2026 judgment upholding the Bihar SIR makes careful *such careful and minute* identification of subsequent procedural violations, departures from safeguards and state-specific facts especially important.

The legal strategy should therefore examine the constitutionality and manner of exercise of the ECI's powers, including the safeguards governing SIR, the institutional and decision-making structure of the Commission, transparency in the preparation and revision of electoral rolls, and mechanisms for independent oversight and forensic scrutiny of disputed exclusions. Where elections have already been conducted on rolls under serious challenge, remedies should be considered based on constituency-specific evidence and the statutory mechanisms governing election challenges, rather than through a broad canvass seeking to invalidate elections. In West Bengal, for instance, the large number of pending appeals and the fact that only a small number of reinstatements occurred before the 2026 Assembly election raise questions that warrant close legal examination. In a stage wise strategy, also echoing the campaigns and protests on the ground, *if such collated evidence* holds to the test of legal scrutiny a case should be made out for the annulment of elections held post June 2025 when the SIR was launched.

We further resolve that *supportive citizens' action* must proceed through a multi-pronged strategy combining documentation, legal intervention and institutional accountability. A systematic database of exclusions, appeals, and notices, Forms 6 and 7, bulk applications and

other irregularities should be developed so that any future litigation rests on verifiable evidence rather than broad allegations. The immediate legal objective should be to seek enforceable safeguards, transparency, independent oversight and effective remedies for wrongful exclusion, while examining whether the present institutional framework provides adequate accountability for the exercise of the ECI's constitutional powers.

Resolution: Public Social Audit of Electoral Rolls

We give a Call for civil society groups and individuals across the country to further intensify and expand the practice of carrying out a Public Social Audit of electoral rolls in accordance with the safeguards and participatory mechanisms contemplated under the Manual on Electoral Rolls, including verification at the Gram Sabha, Ward Sabha and booth levels, with the concerned BLO and ERO present. This assembly recognises such valuable efforts conducted in some areas of Delhi (Mangolpuri etc) and in about 100 booths of Karnataka state.

This exercise must be conducted keeping the 2002-2003 SIR process and documentation in mind and making sure that the 2002-2003 Voters Lists are available, booth-wise for this exercise to be successfully conducted. Matching this with the new (2025-2026) SIR Final Electoral Roll, *the campaign must give a face and name to the persons so tragically and shamefully excluded.* That too by a constitutional authority like the Election Commission of India.

The conduct of this Campaign for a Public Social Audit is crucial to drum up and sustain the demand for a Scrapping of the 2025-2026 SIR. Every proposed deletion must be publicly disclosed, with the voter given a meaningful opportunity to contest the deletion and have their name restored where wrongly excluded. The process must ensure transparency regarding who sought a deletion, on what grounds, whose name is proposed to be deleted and what verification was undertaken. No electoral-roll change should be affected without public notice, verification and an effective opportunity to object.

We call for a national, participatory social-audit exercise across all SIR-affected States, documenting wrongful deletions, pending claims and objections, Form 6 and Form 7 applications, procedural violations and their consequences for affected citizens. Civil-society groups, youth organisations and local communities should continue state-level verification and public hearings, creating an evidence-based record of exclusions and enabling affected electors to speak for themselves.

Let us give a name and face to 13.60 crore Indians cruelly denied the right to Vote and Ensure that this Right is Restored. And the SIR is scrapped.

Resolution: Independent Commission of Inquiry

This Assembly welcomes the establishment of the Independent Commission of Former Supreme Court & High Court Judges Constituted to Probe Electoral Rolls Special Intensive Revision (SIR) appointed by the Lawyers Association for Constitution (LAFAC) is pleased to announce the constitution of an independent inquiry commission on October 2, 2026.

We resolve to coordinate with the Commission and provide elaborate data and evidence on all the demands listed at the start of this Resolution before it. Experts associated with this Assembly who are deeply familiar with the malaise in the electoral process that goes back at least half a decade including the outright Weaponisation of India's Electoral System will be encouraged to and facilitated to depose before the Independent Commission of Former Supreme Court & High Court Judges Constituted to Probe Electoral Rolls Special Intensive Revision (SIR). The Commission has committed to bringing out its report by December 2026 and we welcome the urgency indicated by this process.

We only urge that this Commission's work should not only complement, and not substitute, existing judicial and statutory remedies but that it should actively engage with all and available on ground campaigns, investigations and efforts, especially data-driven investigations conducted by Independent Media and Groups to enrich the evidence it may and will collect.

Every legal, political and organisational effort must converge on one uncompromising demand: scrap SIR and safeguard the voting rights of every eligible citizen.

End Note

The Absence of Parliamentary Sanction to the SIR

An RTI Inquiry/Findings inquiring into the "sanctioned budget & expenditure incurred on the SIR Phase 2 (Bihar and 12 other states)" revealed that there was no Parliamentary Sanction sought. A mere 1978 Circular which states that the expenditure on voter-roll revision should be divided between the Centre and the State concerned on a 50:50 basis was relied upon. The ECI did not provide a copy of the circular, but only made a reference to it. In an earlier RTI Inquiry filed with the CEO, Bihar, seeking details of the actual expenditure incurred in the Bihar SIR, the response of the CEO, Bihar, was that the districts had not compiled the expenditure data! This provides material for Parliamentary Questions on the Issue in the Upcoming Winter Session of Parliament, 2026.

Issued by: People First, Citizen for Justice & Peace (CJP) & Vote for Democracy (VFD)