



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF INDIA (CBCI)

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PRESS STATEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CBCI WARNS AGAINST DISENFRANCHISEMENT; URGES ELECTION COMMISSION TO SAFEGUARD PUBLIC TRUST AND VOTER RIGHTS

New Delhi, October 7, 2026: The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) is both shocked and deeply concerned about the reports of irregularities in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) across the country, as highlighted in an investigative report by The Indian Express.

The CBCI firmly demands that no valid voter should lose their constitutional right to vote. We urge the Election Commission to ensure that the SIR process is conducted in a free, fair, and completely transparent manner, guaranteeing that no legitimate citizen is deprived of their voting rights. Disenfranchisement must never become a "new normal," as such a trajectory represents a highly dangerous trend for our democracy.

The bedrock of any thriving democracy lies in the absolute trust the public places in its electoral institutions. It is the ultimate responsibility of the Election Commission to ensure that public trust in our electoral institutions remains unshaken, and that every eligible citizen's voice is safeguarded. The principles of democracy must be protected at every level, and therefore the Election Commission must operate without any taint of bias or partisanship.

Furthermore, the CBCI supports and stands in solidarity with all those who are peacefully protesting for their legitimate demands and the protection of our democratic fabric. At the same time, we earnestly request all protestors to strictly refrain from any form of violence and to maintain the absolute peaceful nature of their demonstrations.

Let us continue to pray unceasingly for our motherland during these difficult times.

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