Forum for Constitutional Democracy (FCD)

Convenor:
Dr K. Ramachandra Murthy

PRESS RELEASE

Prashant Bhushan to address People's Convention on SIR, organised by Forum for Constitutional Democracy, in Hyderabad on 22 November

Hyderabad | 19 November 2026

The Forum for Constitutional Democracy (FCD) will organise a People's Convention on **"SIR and the Challenges to Constitutional Democracy"** on 22 November 2026 at 4 PM at the Institution of Engineers (India), Khairatabad, Hyderabad. Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court, **Shri Prashant Bhushan**, will address the convention.

At a press conference held today at the Press Club, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad, FCD members raised serious concerns about the Election Commission of India's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. They said the exercise has created widespread anxiety and confusion among citizens and raised serious questions about people's voting rights and the fairness of elections.

FCD Convenor **K. Ramachandra Murthy** questioned the credibility of elections when the electoral rolls themselves are under question. Referring to reports of large-scale discrepancies in Maharashtra, he called upon intellectuals, civil society groups and young people to come together to defend democracy.

Justice B. Sudershan Reddy described the SIR process as arbitrary and questioned its legal and constitutional basis. He asked why voter mapping was required and where the Constitution or the law provided for such conditions. He expressed concern that citizens were being asked to make declarations without fully understanding their legal consequences.

Justice Reddy also raised concerns about the large-scale submission of Form 7 applications seeking deletion of voters' names, alleging that one person had submitted applications concerning hundreds of voters. He pointed to cases registered in Telangana and Karnataka in connection with such submissions. He questioned the Election Commission's handling of the exercise and called for clarity on its claims regarding infiltrators. He said the process had

created an unprecedented level of anxiety among citizens and warned that constitutional democracy was in danger.

Prof. Kodandaram highlighted concerns over the deletion and alteration of voters' names and said the scale of the exercise called for serious public discussion. He said that around 50 intellectuals had come together through FCD with a commitment to protecting constitutional values.

G. Jyothy Kiran, Senior Advocate, said this would be FCD's first public meeting since its formation. She emphasised the need to create awareness among people about SIR and what is at stake. She invited citizens to attend the convention and take part in the discussion.

FCD believes that the right to vote is central to democracy and that every citizen must understand and defend this right. The Forum invites citizens, intellectuals, civil society organisations and democratic rights activists to participate in the convention and discuss the impact of SIR on electoral democracy.

Members of FCD **Virahat Ali, Rahman** and **Deepthi Battini, Coordinator, FCD**, also attended the press conference.

PEOPLE'S CONVENTION

Theme: SIR and the Challenges to Constitutional Democracy
Date: 22 November 2026
Time: 4 PM
Venue: Institution of Engineers (India), Khairatabad, Hyderabad
Speaker: Shri Prashant Bhushan, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India

Organised by: Forum for Constitutional Democracy (FCD)