



The MUMBAI Declaration

Made on 26th October, 2018, at the 1st International Conference on '*Better Elections for Healthier Democracy*' for Local Governments; hosted by State Election Commission, Maharashtra at Mumbai.

Preamble:

Local Governments and their elections do not receive the due importance from the various stakeholders of democracy including the National & State governments. There is an urgent need to bring local governments and their elections to the centre stage of the political discourse, if democracy is to flourish in true spirit at the grassroots level.

(2) Accordingly an International Conference on 'Better Elections for Healthier Democracy' for local governments was organised by the State Election Commission, Maharashtra at Mumbai, on 25th & 26th October, 2018; details of which are given at **Annexure I** alongwith the list of participants, both International and National at **Annexure II**.

(3) Recommendations made by the participants in the conference are given in 2 parts as shown below:

PART A: Relevant to all including the various democratic countries and the International organisations, and

PART B: Relevant primarily to the Indian stakeholders especially the various State Election Commissions.

PART A

Recommendations relevant to all including the various democratic countries and the International organisations

- (i) An international platform be established focusing on local government elections for:
 - a. continuous exchange of ideas and good practices on various subjects including technology process and practices
 - b. capacity development (job/operational training, professional development, stakeholder awareness training, peer to peer exchange etc.) for key stakeholders throughout the electoral cycle.
 - c. assessing the needs of training and exchanging of independent election observers
 - d. conducting research and new innovation for local government elections.
- (ii) Local governments be encouraged to come together to form Associations for asserting themselves and for conducting research & training etc. in all aspects of elections and local governance.
- (iii) To Promote, encourage and use the Institute of Democracy & Elections for Good Governance (IDEGG) established by the State Election Commission of Maharashtra, for working on key issues relating to local government elections.
- (iv) State Election Commission, Maharashtra to start with and thereafter various Election Authorities shall lead and co-ordinate the above activities by turn.

PART B

Recommendations relevant primarily to the Indian stakeholders especially the various State Election Commissions.:-

- (i) Governments at national and sub national levels be requested to:
 - (a) devolve funds, functions & functionaries to local governments in a time bound manner
 - (b) create mechanism for training of both prospective & elected representatives especially women and vulnerable sections at the earliest.
 - (c) undertake and implement urgent electoral reforms to cleanse the system of corrupt practices, in particular
 - debarring candidates with criminal backgrounds from contesting elections
 - limit the eligibility of a person to maximum 2 terms in a local body
 - curtail the undue influence of money power and social media
 - (d) ensure adequate and timely financial grant for meeting election expenses by electoral authorities
 - (e) empower SECs to have full control on election cycle from delimitation, reservation, voter list preparation upto post election settlement of accounts.
- (ii) State Election Commissions should
 - (a) use their constitutional powers & try to be fiercely independent
 - (b) fill in vacuous areas wherever possible
 - (c) evolve innovative methods towards authentic and error free electoral rolls;
 - (d) Promote voter and citizen education and awareness

- (e) have “Societal Conversation” with various stakeholders
- (iii) State Election Commissions may consider the following
 - (a) Compulsory “Constituency / Ward Development Plan” by all the candidates, giving their vision of development and its’ display in public domain.
 - (b) System of yellow/red cards etc. for violations / defaults / misbehaviour etc. by candidates during the period of Model Code of Conduct and its display in public domain.
 - (c) Audit of expenditure incurred by candidates and political parties through auditors empanelled with Accountant General.
 - (d) System to gather information regarding contributions made by third parties etc.
 - (e) Chairmen of All India Association of State Election Commissions shall lead and co-ordinate the above activities.

ANNEXURE I

Historic amendments to the Constitution of India were made in 1992 through the 73rd & 74th amendments in order to provide Local Self- Governments (LSGs) their rightful place in the process of Nation Building and fulfil the aspirational needs of citizens. It provides, amongst others for (i) Constitutional status to all LSGs in India and (ii) Independent State Election Commission at par with Election Commission of India in each state for conducting the elections to the LSGs in a free, fair & transparent manner.

It is ironic that inspite of 25 years of the passage of the above amendments, many people still do not adequately recognise the role of LSGs and are not aware about the Status, Authority & Role of State Election Commissions. Similar situation exists in various other democratic countries as well.

Realising the urgent need to bridge the above gap, State Election Commission, Maharashtra hosted an International Conference on 25th & 26th October 2018 at Mumbai with an effort to bring elections to the local governments to the centre stage of electoral process. The objective was to share experiences and disseminate good practices adopted by the various Election Authorities. This conference, a first of its kind, was attended by nearly 150 eminent persons, including 14 delegates from Election Authorities of various countries, 6 from global CSOs (including Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), London and International IDEA, Stockholm), 10 State Election Commissioners of India,

representatives from various SECs, NGOs, CSOs, Election Managers, Media, Researchers / Academicians, Political Parties etc.

The conference was inaugurated by Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra Shri Ch. Vidyasagar Rao, in the presence of Hon'ble Smt. Pankaja Munde, Minister of Rural Development, Women & Child Welfare, Government of Maharashtra & Hon'ble Shri Radhakrishna Wikhe-Patil, Leader of Opposition of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. The Valedictory function was chaired by Hon'ble Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra and attended by Hon'ble Shri Sudhir Mungantiwar, Minister of Finance & Planning, Government of Maharashtra and Hon'ble Shri Dhananjay Munde, Leader of Opposition of Maharashtra Legislative Council.

Following 5 major themes were deliberated at the conference over two days, with active participation of the delegates:-

- (i) Public ownership of democracy
 - (ii) Misuse of money power
 - (iii) Inclusiveness
 - (iv) Menace of social media / fake news etc.
 - (v) Role of various stakeholders
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ANNEXURE - II
List of Participants

Annexure II			
List of Participants			
Sr	Name	Designation	Organisation
CHIEF GUEST & VIP			
1	Hon. Vidyasagar Rao	Governor	State of Maharashtra
2	Hon. Devendra Fadnavis	Chief Minister	Government of Maharashtra
3	Hon. Sudhir Mungantiwar	Finance Minister	Government of Maharashtra
4	Hon. Mrs.Panjajaja Munde	Minister of Rural Development Department	Government of Maharashtra
5	Hon.Radhakrishna Wikhe-Patil	Leader of Opposition	Maharashtra Legislative Council
6	Hon.Dhanjay Munde	Leader of Opposition	Maharashtra Legislative Council
7	Hon.Mahadev Jankar	Minister	Government of Maharashtra
FOREIGN DELEGATES			
8	Mr.Gareth Wall	Research Officer	Commonwealth Local Government Forum
9	Mr.Anuya Kuwar	Programme Officer, Asia Region	Commonwealth Local Government Forum
10	Mr.Erik Asplund	Programme Officer,	International IDEA
11	Mr. Yohanes Prieston	General Secretariat	Election Commissioner of Indonesia
12	Hon. .Pramono Ubaid Tanthowi	Election Commissioner	Election Commission of Indonesia
13	Hon.. Wawan Wiraatmaja	General Secretariat	Election Commission of Indonesia
14	Mr. Md Shahidur Rahman,	Assistant Secretary	Election Commission Secretariat, Bangladesh
15	Mr. Mosharrof Hossain,	Deputy Director	Election Commission, Bangladesh
16	Hon. UGYEN CHEWANG	Election Commissioner	Election Commission of Bhutan
17	Mr.Sonam Tobgyal	Director Elections	Election Commission, Bhutan
18	Mr.Thinley jamtsho,	Chief Election Officer	Election Commission, Bhutan
19	Mr.Shujau Hussain	President	Local Community Initiative, Maldives
20	Mr.Wahyu Setiawhu	Commissioner Election	Election Commissioner of Indonesia
21	Mr.K.J.S.Madhawa,	Deputy Commissioner	Election Commission of Srilanka
22	Mr. Milan Vaishnav	Director	CEIP Washington D.C.
23	Mr.Shoumeli Das	Consultant	UNICEF
24	Mr.Rajani	Consultant	UNICEF
STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONERS & OFFICERS			
25	Hon. Jageshwar Saharia	State Election Commissioner	State Election Commission, Maharashtra
26	Hon. S.Jagpal Singh Sandhu	State Election Commissioner	State Election Commission, Punjab
27	Hon. R.K. Srivastava	State Election Commissioner	State Election Commission, Goa
28	Hon. N N Pandey	State Election Commissioner	State Election Commission Jharkhand
29	Hon. V.Nagi Reddy	State Election Commissioner	State Election Commission, Telangana
30	Hon. S.K.Srivastava,	State Election Commissioner	Delhi & Chandigarh (U.T.,)
31	Hon. V.Bhaskara	State Election Commissioner	State Election Commission Kerala
32	Hon. Thakur Ram sing	State Election Commissioner	State Election Commission, Chhatisgarh

33	Hon. Ashok Kumar Chauha	State Election Commissioner	State Election Commission, Bihar
34	Hon.R Parshuram	State Election Commissioner	State Election Commission Madhya Pradesh
35	Hon. Dalip Singh	State Election Commissioner	State Election Commission, Harayana
36	Hon. Narendra Kumar,	Election Commissioner	Election Commission of Union Territory
37	Hon. Ved Prakash Varma	Addl. Commissioner	State Election Commission, UP
38	Mr. Shekhar Channe	Secretary	State Election Commission, Maharashtra
39	Mr. Mahesh Joshi	Secretary	State Election Commission, Gujrat
40	Mr. U. N. Das	Secretary	State Election Commission, Odisha
41	Mr. Sunil Prasad,	Secretary,	State Election Commission, UP
42	Mr. Nitin Wagle	Deputy Secretary	State Election Commission, Maharashtra
43	Mr. Avinash Sanas	Deputy Commissioner	State Election Commission, Maharashtra
44	Mrs. Aarti Sarwade	Assistant Commissioner	State Election Commission, Maharashtra
45	Mr. Jagish More,	PRO	State Election Commission, Maharashtra
46	Mrs. Manisha Mohite	Tahsildar	State Election Commission, Maharashtra
47	Mr. Atul s. Save	Tahsildar	State Election Commission, Maharashtra
48	Mrs. Pranali Ghonge	Assistant Commissioner	State Election Commission, Maharashtra
49	Mr. Rajaram Zende	Deputy Commissioner	State Election Commission, Maharashtra
50	Mr. Ravindra Dhurjad	Deputy Commissioner	State Election Commission, Maharashtra
51	Mr. Vaibhav Saple	Assit.	State Election Commission, Maharashtra
52	Mr. Atul Jadhav	Desk Officer	State Election Commission, Maharashtra
53	Mr. Sanjay Sawant	Desrk Officer	State Election Commission, Maharashtra
54	Mrs. Suman Arolkar	Desrk Officer	State Election Commission, Maharashtra
55	Mrs. Ratnaprabha Bele	Desrk Officer	State Election Commission, Maharashtra
56	Mr. Girish Kulkarni	Naib Tahsildar	State Election Commission, Maharashtra
SPEAKERS			
57	Mr. Kuber Girish	Editor	Lokmat Leading newspaper in Maharashtra
58	Mr. Mehta Nitai	Managing Trustee	Praja Foundation
59	Dr. Nile Mrudul	Professor	Mumbai University
60	Mr. Raghunandan T R	Director & Founder Member	Avantika Foundation
61	Dr. Ajit Ranade	Sr. Economist & Political Analyst	ADR- Association for Democratic Reforms
62	Mr. Singh Brijesh	Secretary & Special IG (Cyber)	DGIPR- Directorate General of Information and Public Relations
63	Mr. Bhim Raskar	Director	RSCD - Resource and Support Centre for Development
64	Mr. Balsing Rajput	Superintendent of Police	Cyber Cell, Maharashtra
65	Mr. Akshay Raut	Director,	Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
66	Mr. George Mathew,	Chairman	Institute of Social Sciences, Delhi
67	Mrs. Indrani Malkani	Chairman	V Citizens Action Network V-CAN
68	Mr. Sanjeev Jain	Addl. Director	Income Tax
69	Mr. Jagdeep choker	Founder Member	ADR- Association for Democratic Reforms
70	Mr. Rajeev Sabade	Sr. Journalist & Ex. Member of PCI	Ex. Member of PCI
71	Mr. P.K. Dash	Chief Commissioner of I Tax Bhopal	Income Tax

72	Mr. Moiz Haque	Sr. Journalist & HOD Journalism	Nagpur University
73	Mr. S.M.Vijayanand	Retired Secretary Rural Development Department	
OTHER EMINENT PERSONS			
74	Mr.Prof.Suhas Pednekar	Vice Chancellor	Mumbai University
75	Mr.Aseem Gupta	Secretary	Rural Development Department
76	Mr.Jagdish Patil	Divisional Commissioner	Divisional Commission Office, Konkan
77	Mr.Rajesh Deshmukh	Collector	Collector Yavatmal
78	Mr.Balaji Khatgavkar	Municipal Commissioner	Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation
79	Mr.M.N.Hire	Municipal Commissioner	Bhiwandi Municipal Corporation
80	Mrs.Sangita Dhagude	Municipal Commissioner	Malegaon Municipal Corporation
81	Mrs.Reena Phansekar	Deputy Secretary	State Information Commission, Konkan
82	Mr.Sanjai Dhivre	IPS Officer	Mumbai
83	Mr.Pankaj Dahane	Deputy Commissioner of Police	SB, Navi Mumbai
84	Mr.Omprakash Divate	Deputy Commissioner	Thane Municipal Corporation
85	Mr.Rajan Ramhare	Director	Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics
86	Mr.Kiran C. Gaikwad	Associate Professor	SNDT, Womens University
87	Miss. Ashwini R. Sharma	Associate Professor	SNDT, Womens University
88	Mr. Chetan wagh	State Coordinator	RSCD - Resource and Support Centre for Development
89	Mrs. Archana Jatkar	District Co-ordinator	RSCD - Resource and Support Centre for Development
90	Mrs.Shubhangi Bhong	District Co-ordinator	RSCD - Resource and Support Centre for Development
91	Mr.Kiran Karande	Reporter/Journalist	Mahanagar Newspaper
92	Mr. Sunil Chavan	Journalist	Pune
93	Mr. Ramteke CS	Zonal Manager,	Electronics Corporation of India Limited
94	Mr. T. Suryanarayanan	Area manager	Electronics Corporation of India Limited
95	Mr. Z.A Khan	Assistant General Manager (Marketing)	Electronics Corporation of India Limited
96	Mrs.Manisha Vaidya	Professional Asst.	Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics
97	Mrs. Rutuja Chaphekar	Assistant Professor	Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics
98	Mr. Vishal Gaikwad	Assistant Professor	Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics
99	Mr. Sushant Koli	Officer	DGIPR- Directorate General of Information and Public Relations
100	Mr. V.V.Dhuri	Officer	DGIPR- Directorate General of Information and Public Relations
101	Mr. Soe mar janto	Counciller	Indonesia councillor, General, Mumbai
102	Mr. Vivek Wankhede	Reporter	All India Radio
103	Mr. Pradip Shah	Asman Em	Election Management & Monitoring
104	Mr. Umesh Kashika	Representative	Election Management & Monitoring
105	Mrs.Deepali Shirgaonkar	Student of Political Science	Mumbai University
106	Mr. Shunmuga Sondaram	Student of Public Policy	Mumbai University
107	Mr. Madhav Kusekar	Assistant Commissioner	Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation
108	Mrs.Manisha Mane	District Statistical Officer	Thane District

109	Mr. Akshay Nilange	Asst. Commissioner	Amravati Municipal Corporation
110	Mr. Milind Ugle	Director	Infinity IT Solution Pvt. Ltd. Maharashtra
111	Mr. Pratik Panchad	Manager	Infinity IT Solution Pvt. Ltd. Maharashtra
112	Mr. Ganesh Shinde	Deputy Commissioner of Police	Mumbai
113	Mr. Chithal Chavan	Software Developer	Maharashtra IT
114	Miss. Ashmika Shinde	Intern	Government Law College
115	Mr. Kailash Z. Aromi	Asst. Director	Regional Director Municipal Administration, Nagpur
116	Mr. Mangesh Shigvan	Political Analyst	ADR- Association for Democratic Reforms
117	Mr. Dilip Jadhav	Sr. Correspondant	Daily Krushival Konkan Region
118	Mr. Anurag Aher	Asst. Professor of Law	Law College
119	Mr. Dnyaneshwar Lokhande	Political Party Member	BMP
120	Mr. Harshwardhan Gajbhiye	IAS (Retd.)	
121	Mr. Rajeshwar Andhale	Professor	Ruia College
122	Mr. Kumar Sushil	Vice President	Rashtriya Samaj Party
123	Mr. Samadhan Pathade	Party Worker	Bahujan Party
124	Dr. Surekha Muky	PRO to Minister	Mumbai
125	Mr. Sanjeev Shukla	Representative	Nirbhay Pathik
126	Mr. Sunayena Nate	Police Officer	Mumbai Police
127	Mr. Pramod Shinde	Reporter	ANI
128	Mr. Rohit Ghodke	Assistant Engineer	Mumbai Municipal Corporation
129	Mr. Ghareto	Police Officer	Mumbai Police
130	Mr. Kambale	Police Officer	Mumbai Police
131	Mr. Dinesh Mane	OSD	Mumbai Municipal Corporation
132	Mr. Akshay D	OSD	Mumbai Municipal Corporation
133	Prof. M.S. Bhutada	Director	Abhinav IT Solution Pvt. Ltd.
134	Mr. Rahul Shinde	Police Officer	Mumbai Police
135	Mr. A C Ingle	OSD	Mumbai Municipal Corporation
136	Mr. Aditya Naik	Engineer	Thane Municipal Corporation
137	Mrs. Aarti Vinayak Kadwadkar	Engineer	Thane Municipal Corporation
138	Mr. Vinayak Wadekar	Engineer	Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation
139	Mr. Abhijet Nikale	Photographer	Press
140	Mr. Atul Juikar	Photographer	Press
141	Mr. Rohan Undale	Photographer	Press
142	Mr. Jitu Singh	Engineer	Electronics Corporation of India Limited
143	Mr. Shubham	Engineer	Electronics Corporation of India Limited
144	Mr. V M Ahire	Police Officer	Mumbai
145	Mr. K Parsuram	Asst. Director	Electronics Corporation of India Limited
146	Mr. Maithili Patil	Intern	SNDT, Womens University
147	Mr. Mahesh S	Area Coordinator	ADR- Association for Democratic Reforms
148	Mr. Sumit Patil	Cultural Incharge	Mumbai University
149	Mr. Aaher	Cultural Incharge	Mumbai University
150	Mr. Santosh R Bhise	Professor	Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj University