

Two Views, Leader of the Opposition (LoP Rahul Gandhi)

&

Chief Minister, Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis

A recent issue, that has re-emerged after a year of the Lok Sabha 2024 polls is the issue of Non-Transparency around the conduct, polling and data release of the November 2024 Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha Elections. Rahul Gandhi's article on June 7, 2025 and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s multiple responses. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has, relatively been not at the forefront of rebutting the allegations

June 8, 2025 <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/rahul-gandhi-writes-match-fixing-maharashtra-10052638/>

June 9, 2025 <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/rahul-gandhi-maharashtra-election-commission-10053941/>

One can discuss many of the issues raised (including the questionable claim that the NDA made the process of appointment to the Election Commission of India –ECI- “more transparent (!!!): given that the ruling coalition in the Centre hurriedly brought in a law to nullify a Supreme Court judgement of November 2023 including the Chief Justice of India (CJI) in the selection process. But here, this note will discuss the elementary lapses (or anomalies) in data presented by the Chief Minister, Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis.

In a nutshell, he has been selective and faulty and **preferred to keep mum on data points inconvenient to the ruling party.**

Dr. Pyara Lal Garg, Former Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Panjab University, Chandigarh is the expert who provided the basis for mathematical extrapolations *is one of the key experts with **Vote for Democracy and he has probed both articles. VFD presents this preliminary data:***

1. First of all the issues mostly emerge out of the failure of the ECI to act as per its own law and procedures.
2. Thereafter the refusal to put in public domain the procedural steps of registering new electors form 6 and deletion of names on complaint by others on Form 7
3. Safe custody of the voting apparatus
4. The amendment of rules to the detriment of transparency fairness and impartiality

Dr Garg: Devendra Fadnavis IE June 8,2025 has been trying to play with figures which are not sourced from ECI official records

1. LOK SABHA

2014-19 Lok Sabha the increase in Voters is 78.78 lakh Voters NOT 63 lakh

2009-2014 Lok Sabha 78.45 lakh Voters were added NOT 75 lakh Voters

2004-2009 One Crore Voters were Added (correctly stated) However the exact figure is 99.42 lakh Voters being added

2019-24 Lok Sabha Elections 40.80 Lakh Voters were added

Source: Election Commission of India <https://old.eci.gov.in/files/file/10605-schedule-for-general-election-to-the-legislative-assemblies-of-haryana-and-maharashtra-2019/?do=download>

votefordemoc@gmail.com

<https://ceoelection.maharashtra.gov.in/Downloads/PDF/General-Assembly-Election-2024-Press-Note-15102024.pdf>

<https://ceoelection.maharashtra.gov.in/Downloads/PDF/Assembly-2024-PressNote.pdf>

Devendra Fadnavis: “Between 2014 and 2019, 63 lakh new voters were added; from 2009 to 2014, 75 lakh new voters were added; and from 2004 to 2009, 1 crore new voters were added. This means that nothing extraordinary happened in 2024”.

Would the CM of Maharashtra Like to give his sources?

2. VIDHAN SABHA

In year 2004

(from Lok Sabha 2004 to Vidhan Sabha elections 2004 increase in Voters is by 29.53 lakh

In year 2009

(from Lok Sabha 2009 to Vidhan Sabha elections 2009 increase in Voters is by 30.14 lakh

In year 2014

(from Lok Sabha 2014 to Vidhan Sabha elections 2014 increase in Voters is by 27.29 Lakh

In year 2019

(from Lok Sabha 2019 to Vidhan Sabha elections 2019 increase in Voters is by 11.61 Lakh

In year 2024

(from Lok Sabha 2024 to Vidhan Sabha elections 2024 increase in Voters is by 40.80 lakh

Source: ECI Statistical Reports for concerned years concerned house

Would the CM of Maharashtra care to give his sources?

3. Polling Percentages November 2024, Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha Elections

The hike in the last hour of polling is a hike in percentages from 5.82 percent per hour to 7.83 percent per hour it is 2 percent hike: This hike amounts to a hike in 65.97 lakh Votes in absolute numbers (Extrapolated from ECI data)

Even if the same number is divided between all 1,00,186 booths the same turns out to more than 65 votes per hour whereas normal polling per hour on average including brisk polling is 56.5 votes. Is the figure by DF not a high number ?

Moreover, one fails to understand that if the percentage of voting figures at 5 pm could be uploaded by ECI at 6.14 pm then who or what prevented the ECI to upload the Percentage of Voter Turn-Out at 6 PM? The ECI has uploaded the Voter Percentages of 11.45 pm uploaded at 11.53 pm

Devendra Fadnavis in his lengthy and convoluted defence has failed to explain why in the Simultaneously held 2nd phase of Jharkhand Vidhan Sabha polling, these (questionable) phenomena were not observed in which polls there was only only a 0.86 per cent increase between 5 pm and 11.45 pm on day of polling. Incidentally NDA lost the elections there!

Fadnavis is factually wrong when he has quoted the “5 PM figure of the 2nd phase of Lok Sabha 2024 polls for Maharastra at 5.00 pm”. The fact is that the ECI has not uploaded the State-wise Voter turn out on the day of polling till date. ECI has only published and aggregate 60.96 per cent of Polling for all the Parliamentary Constituencies taken together, Even hiked figure of 66.71% uploaded on 30.04.2024 is for all the constituencies and not for Maharastra alone.

Fadnavis is factually wrong because the ECI has to date never declared the 5 pm figure of Voting: in the Lok Sabha Polls, the first release of figures by the ECI was for 7 pm or after that till 7.45 pm

Devendra Fadnavis: “The claim that the voting percentage suddenly increased is a huge joke. To understand how the percentage rose in the last hour, one must look at the hourly voting rate. The average polling rate throughout the day was 5.83 per cent per hour. So what new information are you revealing by stating there was a 7.83 per cent increase in the last hour? Is Rahul Gandhi unaware that 5 pm to 6 pm is also a polling hour, and everyone present in the queue at the booth by 6 pm is allowed to cast their vote?”

Fadnavis’ Imagination not Facts:

The number of Polling Booths in Maharashtra are 100186 and the figure quoted by DF in the non fact checked article in Indian Express of 1.427 Lakh is creation of his own design.

Fadnavis is again wrong on Votes polled after 6 pm: the ECI, has to date, never released any such figure (quoted by Fadnavis) at 1770867—If Fadnavis is in possession of data that is NOT in the public domain, that speaks volumes for the both the Institution in question (ECI) and the Chief Minister. He has further distributed the total hiked votes between all the polling stations equally which is against all the statistical principles by any stretch of the imagination.

Fadnavis has failed to explain that if as per his own calculation all the voters standing in queue had cast vote with in 18 minutes 23 seconds after the end of scheduled time then why did ECI not post those final figures of 11.45 PM?

WHO is playing with figures and transparency, Fadnavis or ECI ?????

Fadnavis has conspicuously (maybe intelligently) kept mum on the fact raised by Rahul Gandhi that the Number of Voters are even more than the TOTAL adult population of 18 and 18+ !!!

Fadnavis has wrongly given the Figures of Young Voters in Maharashtra at 2646608 **contrary to the** figure given by ECI which is 22.21 LAKHS as on 20.11.2024 vide No. ECI/PN/163/2024.

Devendra Fadnavis: Moreover, this didn’t just happen in Maharashtra. In the second phase of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the voter turnout figure given at 5 pm was 60.96 per cent, which was finalised at 66.71 per cent the next day. The increase was 5.75 per cent. But are you going to hide that fact because you won that election? Previously, the final voting figures would come late at night; now, the 5 pm figure is released, and the final figure comes the next day....Here, Rahul Gandhi claims that the increased voter count was limited to 12,000 polling stations across only 85 constituencies, and that most of these seats went to the NDA’s tally. The calculation for this is also in the *Loksatta* article from December 3, 2024. The number of total votes cast after 6 pm was 17,70,867. Based on the day’s average voting rate, 97,103.32 votes were cast per minute across 1.427 lakh polling stations. Therefore, if we calculate the average for the votes cast after 6 pm, the additional time taken was only 18 minutes and 23 seconds.

The Basic issues for Citizens, Vote for Democracy still are:

1. Videography of Voters in Queue after scheduled poll time must be released and made public by the ECI
2. Videography of the Number of slips distributed and announced for those standing in queue must be released and made public by the ECI
3. Videography of number of votes polled at the end of scheduled poll time must be released and made public by the ECI
4. Videography of announcement of votes polled at close of polls must be released and made public by the ECI
5. Videography of sealing and transport of EVMs must be released and made public by the ECI
6. Videography of CUSTODY OF MACHINES all the time must be released and made public by the ECI
7. Proof of Form 6 and 7 all procedure adopted as laid down for addition of voters and deletion of voters must be released and made public by the ECI

Vote for Democracy, Mumbai, June 9, 2025

<https://votefordemocracy.org.in/>

Mumbai