



To get rid of evil social tendencies and establish 'Surajya'

Surajya Abhiyan

(Hindu Janajagruti Samiti's Campaign for Social Welfare)

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Date : 19.11.2024

To,

The Chief Election Commissioner,
Election Commission of India,
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road,
New Delhi - 110001

State Election Commission, Maharashtra
First Floor, New Administrative Building,
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk, Madam Cama Road,
Mumbai-400032

**Subject : Urgent Concern Over Opportunistic Fare Hike by Private Bus Operators
Before Maharashtra Assembly Elections ...**

Respected Sir,

We **Surajya Abhiyan**, a unit of Hindu Janajagruti Samiti for Social Welfare, are writing to bring to your attention a serious issue that could affect voter participation in the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly elections on November 20, 2024.

According to media reports and public grievances, private bus operators in Maharashtra have significantly increased fares on various routes leading to different regions of the state. For example, ticket prices on routes like Mumbai-Kolhapur, which were ₹500-₹700 after Diwali, have now risen to ₹1,000-₹1,400 ahead of the elections. This sharp fare hike is creating a financial burden for many voters, especially those traveling from Mumbai to Konkan, Western Maharashtra, Marathwada, and Northern Maharashtra to vote.

This fare increase is likely to discourage voters, particularly those from lower-income backgrounds, from traveling to their hometowns to cast their ballots. This could result in a lower voter turnout and negatively affect the democratic process.

We respectfully request the Election Commission to take the following actions:

1. Investigate the Matter: Look into the fare hikes and engage with private bus operators to regulate fares during the election period.
2. Ensure Affordable Travel: Work with state transport authorities and Indian Railways to provide affordable travel options for voters.
3. Issue Directives: Instruct all transport providers to maintain fair pricing to ensure unhindered voter participation.

Your swift action will ensure a free and fair election and safeguard the democratic rights of the citizens.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely

Mr Abhishek Murukate

Coordinator, Surajya Abhiyan, Maharashtra

Contact : 9867558384

Encl. : 1. News cutting of 'TheWeek' and tweet of Surajya Abhiyan