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ELECTORAL PROCESS COMPROMISED: CWC

ASHHAR KHAN | DC
NEW DELHI, NOV. 29

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Poll process 'suspect' due to EVMs: Kharge

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Top Congress leaders met on Friday to deliberate on its electoral defeats in Maharashtra and Haryana, with party president Mallikarjun Kharge hitting out at the Election Commission (EC) for being partisan.

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) in its resolution said, "The CWC believes the integrity of the entire electoral process is being severely compromised. Free and fair elections is a Constitutional mandate that is being called into serious question by the partisan functioning of the EC." The Congress will also start a national movement on the "targeted electoral malpractices".

In his address at the CWC meeting at the AICC headquarters, Mr Kharge

said he believes that the EVMs have made the electoral process "suspect" and stressed that it is the constitutional responsibility of the EC to ensure free and fair elections in the country. Mr Kharge also hit out at internal bickering in the party, asserting that the lack of unity and statements against own party leaders harms the party a lot as he urged leaders to remain united and not speak publicly against each other.

"Unless we fight elections unitedly and stop making statements against each other, how will we be able to defeat our opponents politically?" the Congress president said.

He also called for removing shortcomings in the party by learning lessons from the election results and said the party would have to evolve a strategy to

effectively counter the "propaganda and misinformation" by its rivals.

Insiders claim that general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra wanted the party to strongly pitch for ballot papers, while some dithered and wanted the ambit to cover the entire electoral process. The party will soon reach out to INDIA bloc allies on the issue. Speaking to reporters general secretary communications Jairam Ramesh said, "We have approached the EC several times but to no avail."

It is not limited to EVMs alone but the whole process, including voter list manipulation."

The party also reiterated its stand on the situation prevailing in Uttar Pradesh. "Systematic attempts of the BJP to foment communal tensions in different states, most recently in UP."

The Hindu (English)

Date: 30.11.2024

Cong. submits memorandum to poll body

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Congress on Friday raised with the Election Commission serious inconsistencies in the Maharashtra Assembly election process and sought an in-person hearing to present evidence. It submitted a memorandum to the EC.