

IN THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION
WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. _____ OF 2025
(PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION)

IN THE MATTER OF:

ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORMS & ORS. ... PETITIONERS

VERSUS

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA ... RESPONDENT

PAPER BOOK
(FOR INDEX KINDLY SEE INSIDE)

WITH
I.A. NO. _____ OF 2025
(APPLICATION FOR STAY)

COUNSEL FOR THE PETITIONERS: **PRASHANT BHUSHAN**

RECORD OF PROCEEDING

S. NO.	PARTICULARS	PAGES
1.		
2.		
3.		
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10.		

**PROPOSED ADVOCATE'S CHECK LIST (TO BE CERTIFIED BY
ADVOCATE-ON-RECORD)**

1.	SLP (C) has been filed in Form No. 28 with certificate	N.A.
2.	The Petition is as per the provisions of Order XV Rule 1.	N.A.
3.	The papers of SLP have been arranged as per Order XXI, Rule (3)(1)(f).	N.A.
4.	Brief list of dates/events has been filed.	YES
5.	Paragraphs and pages of paper books have been numbered consecutively and correctly noted in Index.	YES
6.	Proper and required number of paper books (1+1) have been filed.	N.A.
7.	The particulars of the impugned judgment passed by the court(s) below are uniformly written in all the documents.	N.A.
8.	In case of appeal by certificate the appeal is accompanied by judgment and decree appealed from and order granting certificate.	N.A.
9.	The Annexures referred to in the petition are true copies of the documents before the court(s) below and are filed in chronological order as per List of Dates.	YES
10.	The annexures referred to in the petition are filed and indexed separately and not marked collectively.	YES
11.	In SLP against the order passed in Second Appeal, copies of the orders passed by the Trial Court and First Appellate Court have been filed.	N.A.
12.	The complete listing proforma has been filled in, signed and included in the paper books.	YES
13.	In a petition (PIL) filed under clause (d) of Rule 12(1) Order XXXVIII, the petitioner has disclosed:	YES

(a)	his full name, complete postal address, e-mail address, phone number, proof regarding personal identification, occupation and annual income, PAN number and National Unique Identity Card number, if any:	YES
(b)	the facts constituting the cause of action;	YES
(c)	the nature of injury caused or likely to be caused to the public;	YES
(d)	the nature and extent of personal interest, if any, of the petitioner(s);	YES
(e)	details regarding any civil, criminal or revenue litigation, involving the petitioner or any of the petitioners, which has or could have a legal nexus with the issue(s) involved in the Public Interest Litigation.	YES
14.	In case of appeals under Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007, the petitioner/appellant has moved before the Armed Forces Tribunal for granting certificate for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court.	N.A.
15.	All the paper books to be filed after curing the defects shall be in order.	N.A.

I hereby declare that I have personally verified the petition and its contents and it is in conformity with the Supreme Court Rules, 2013. I certify that the above requirements of this Check List have been complied with. I further certify that all the documents necessary for the purpose of hearing of the matter have been filed.

Prashant Bhushan

[PRASHANT BHUSHAN]

Advocate on-Record

Code:515

Contact Number: [REDACTED]

Date: **04.07.2025**

I N D E X

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2.	Cover Page of Paper Book		A3	
3.	Index of Report proceedings		A4	
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PROFORMA FOR FIRST LISTINGSECTION : **PIL**

The case pertains to (Please tick/check the correct box):

- ☐ Central Act: (Title) **CONSTITUTION OF INDIA**
- ☐ Section: **UNDER ARTICLE 14, 19 AND 21**
- ☐ Central Rule: (Title) **- N.A.-**
- ☐ Rule No(s) **- N.A.-**
- ☐ State Act: (Title) **- N.A.-**
- ☐ Section: **- N.A.-**
- ☐ State Rule: (Title) **- N.A.-**
- ☐ Rule No(s) **- N.A.-**
- ☐ Impugned Interim Order: (Date) **- N.A.-**
- ☐ Impugned Final Order/Decree: (Date) **- N.A.-**
- ☐ High Court: (Name) **- N.A.-**
- ☐ Names of Judges: **- N.A.-**
- ☐ Tribunal/Authority:(Name) **- N.A.-**
1. Nature of matter: ☒ Civil ☐ Criminal
2. (a) Petitioner/appellant No. 1: **ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORMS**
 (b) e-mail ID: **- N.A.-**
 (c) Mobile phone number: **- N.A.-**
3. (a) Respondent No. 1: **ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**
 (b) e-mail ID: **- N.A.-**
 (c) Mobile phone number: **- N.A.-**

4. (a) Main category classification: 08 (0812)
 (b) Sub classification: OTHER PIL MATTER
5. Not to be listed before: - N.A.-
6. (a) Similar disposed of matter with citation, if any, & case details: NO SIMILAR DISPOSED MATTER
 (b) Similar pending matter with case details: NO SIMILAR PENDING MATTER
7. Criminal Matters:
- (a) Whether accused/convict has surrendered: ☐ Yes ☒ No
 (b) FIR No. - N.A.- Date: - N.A.-
 (c) Police Station: - N.A.-
 (d) Sentence Awarded:
 (e) Period of sentence undergone including period of detention/custody undergone - N.A.-
 (f) Whether any earlier case between the same parties is filed - N.A.-
 (g) Particulars of the FIR and Case - N.A.-
 (h) Whether any bail application was preferred earlier and decision thereupon - N.A.-
8. Land Acquisition Matters:
- (a) Date of Section 4 notification: - N.A.-
 (b) Date of Section 6 notification - N.A.-
 (c) Date of Section 17 notification - N.A.-
9. Tax Matters: State the tax effect: - N.A.-
10. Special Category (first petitioner/appellant only):
- ☒ Senior Citizen > 65 years ☐ SC/ST ☐ Woman/Child ☐ Disabled
☐ Legal aid case ☐ In custody
11. Vehicle Number (in case of Motor Accident Claim matters): - N.A.-
12. Whether there was / is litigation on the same point of law, if yes, details thereof - N.A.-

Prashant Bhushan

(PRASHANT BHUSHAN)

COUNSEL FOR THE PETITIONER

E-MAIL: [REDACTED]

SYNOPSIS

The present Writ Petition has been filed under Article 32 of the Constitution of India seeking setting aside of Order and communication dated 24.06.2025 issued by the Respondent Election Commission of India (ECI) directing for Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls in Bihar (SIR Order) as being in violation of Articles 14, 19, 21, 325 and 326 of the Constitution of India as well as provisions of Representation of People's Act, 1950 and Rule 21A of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. The SIR order dated 24.06.2025 if not set aside, can arbitrarily and without due process disenfranchise lakhs of voters from electing their representatives, thereby disrupting free and fair elections and democracy in the country, which are part of basic structure of the Constitution. That the documentation requirements of the directive, lack of due process as well as the unreasonably short timeline for the said Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Roll in Bihar further make this exercise bound to result in removal of names of lakhs of genuine voters from electoral rolls leading to their disenfranchisement.

That the order dated 24.06.2025 issued by ECI has shifted the onus of being on the voters' list from the State to citizens. It has excluded identification documents such as Aadhar or ration cards which further make marginalised communities and the poor more vulnerable to exclusion from voting. The Declaration as required under the SIR process is violative of Article 326 in so far as it requires a voter to provide documents to prove his/her citizenship and also citizenships of his/her mother or father, failing which his/her name would not be added to the draft electoral roll and can be deleted from the same.

That ECI has issued unreasonable and impractical timeline to conduct SIR in Bihar with close proximity to state elections which are due in November 2025. There are lakhs of citizens (whose names did not appear in 2003 ER) who do not possess the documents as required under the SIR order, there are many who may be able to procure the documents but the short timeline mentioned in directive may preclude them from being able to supply the same within the time period.

Bihar is a state with high poverty and migration rates where many lack access to documents like birth certificates or parental records. As per estimates over 3 crore voters and more particularly from marginalized communities (such as SC, STs and migrant workers) could be excluded from voting due to the stringent requirements as mentioned in the SIR order. That the current reports from Bihar, where SIR is already underway, show that lakhs of voters from villages and marginalized communities do not possess the documents as being sought for them.

Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RPA, 1950 allows the ECI to direct a special revision of electoral rolls "*for reasons to be recorded.*" The ECI's directive lacks recorded reasons supported by any evidence or transparent methodology, rendering it arbitrary and thus liable to be struck down. The requirement of citizenship documents contravenes the requirement of specific grounds for deletion of names from electoral rolls (e.g., death, non-residence, or disqualification under Section 16 of RPA, 1950).

Since 2003, five general elections and five assembly elections have taken place in Bihar with continuous addition and deletion of names in Bihar's electoral roll. While SIR of Bihar or any other state of country is a positive step, but the manner in which ECI has directed the conduct of SIR in a poll bound state like Bihar, has raised questions from all stakeholders, particularly the voters. Moreover, Special Summary Revision (SSR) was already conducted between October 29, 2024 and January 6, 2025 which addressed issues such as migration and ineligible voters due to death or other reasons. Thus, there is no reason for such a drastic exercise in a poll bound state in such a short period of time, violating right to vote of lakhs of voters.

Therefore, order and communication dated 24.06.2025 for Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Roll in Bihar as issued by the ECI is liable to be struck down.

Hence the instant Writ Petition.

LIST OF DATES

24.12.2024	<p>ECI published FAQs on process of annual revision/ updation of Electoral Rolls. The relevant FAQs and their answers are quoted herein below:</p> <p>Q2. What are the stages of Special Summery Revision of ER?</p> <p><i>Ans. The SSR of electoral rolls involves two main stages:</i></p> <p><i>(i) Pre-revision activities mainly include training of official, House-to-House verification by the Booth Level Officers (BLO) for identification of un-enrolled eligible electors, identification of</i></p>
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discrepancies, removal of multiple/ shifted/ dead electors, standardization of addresses, rationalization and modification of polling stations, updation of control tables, preparation of website, integration of supplements and preparation of draft roll.

(ii) *Revision activities:* The actual revision starts with the publication of Draft electoral roll. With the publication of draft electoral roll, the ERO invites claims and objections from all eligible citizens and after processing of such applications, with due procedure, inclusion/deletions/correction of entries is carried out by ERO. Discrepancies already identified by BLOs during the pre-revision activities are also taken-up for removal during this period. All the inclusions, deletions and correction carried out during this period are updated in the electoral roll database and Electoral Roll is finally published on the date as per approved schedule.

Q9. Whether name of an elector can be deleted without any enquiry and field verification?

Ans. No. No entry from the electoral roll can be deleted without following the due procedure. To prevent wrongful deletion from the electoral roll, the following safeguards are in place:

- **Verification of Death:** Deletions due to registered death are only made after proper verification, including the submission of a death certificate.
- **Deletion Due to Death (Unregistered):** Deletions based on unregistered deaths and shifting are made only after receiving Form-7.
- **Field Verification:** Field verification report of BLO is necessary for each case of deletion. During field verification, BLO provide specific remarks about the status of shifting or death cases.
- **Shifting:** For deletions due to shifting, Form-8 must be submitted by the concerned elector.

	<p><i>The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) will confirm the elector's previous enrolment and identity before allowing additions at a new address.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice Requirement: <i>In all cases of proposed deletions (except confirmed deaths), a notice must be issued to the elector concerned and served, giving them a reasonable opportunity for a hearing.</i> • Cross Verification: <i>For deletions in areas where more than 2% of electors are removed or where the same person objects to more than 5 cases, the Electoral Registration Officer personally verifies the deletions to ensure accuracy.</i>
29.05.2025	<p>ECI listed 21 initiatives to “improve voter access” and to “streamline poll management”. That the SIR of electoral rolls was not mentioned in the said 21 initiatives nor has there been a mention of any plans for such a mammoth exercise in close proximity to elections in any meeting with any of the stakeholders including in meetings held by ECI with heads of various national parties held in May-June 2025.</p>
24.06.2025	<p>Respondent i.e., Election Commission of India (ECI) under Article 324 of the Constitution of India and Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, issued an order dated 24.06.2025 directing the conduct of Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls of each Assembly Constituency in the State of Bihar. The relevant para of order dated 24.06.2025 is quoted herein below:</p> <p>.....</p> <p><i>10. Therefore, the Commission has now decided to begin the Special Intensive Revision in the</i></p>

	<p>entire country for the discharge of its constitutional mandate to protect the integrity of the electoral rolls; However, since the General Elections to the Legislative Assembly in the State of Bihar is expected in later part of this year, hence the Commission has decided to conduct Special Intensive Revision in the State of Bihar as per the Guidelines and schedule attached herewith. The schedule for the Special Intensive Revision in the rest of the country shall be issued separately in due course.</p> <p>11. Since the last intensive revision in Bihar was undertaken in 2003, the EROs shall treat the electoral roll of 2003 with qualifying date of 01.01.2003 as probative evidence of eligibility, including presumption of citizenship unless they receive any other input otherwise.</p> <p>12. Any person whose name is not recorded in the 2003 Electoral Roll shall for the purpose of registration in the electoral roll is required to submit from amongst a wide range of eligible government documents as prescribed for establishing their eligibility to be an elector.</p>
24.06.2024	<p>ECI conveyed instructions to the Chief Electoral Officer Bihar, Patna to carry out Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise of the electoral rolls in Bihar. The relevant part of the communication <i>vide</i> letter dated 24.06.2024 is quoted herein below:</p> <p>3. During SIR, EROs through the BLOs shall conduct House to House enumeration. Every existing elector, as on the date of this order, will be made available an Enumeration Form (Annexure C), either through BLO or the elector can download the Enumeration Form from <https://voters.eci.gov.in>. BLO shall collect one copy of the Enumeration Form and sign the acknowledgment of receipt on the second copy to be retained by the existing elector. Based on the Enumeration Forms received back along with</p>

	<p><i>documents, ERO will prepare the draft roll.</i></p> <p><i>4. Further, in case of application for registration as a new elector or for shifting from outside the state, it is also directed that henceforth, alongwith Form 6/Form 8, an additional Declaration Form (Annexure D) shall also be required to be filled by the applicant to support the declaration made therein.</i></p>
28.06.2025	ECI issued a Press Note stating that SIR has commenced in Bihar for verifying the eligibility of each elector.
30.06.2025	Election Commission of India issued another Press Note noting that 4.96 crore whose names appear in the 2003 Bihar Electoral Role do not need to submit any documents and children of these 4.96 crore electors also need not submit any other document relating to their parents.
01.07.2025	<p>That the schedule to conduct SIR is impractical and it might also result in the disenfranchisement of a substantial number of electors of Bihar. This issue has also been raised in news report published in <i>The Wire</i> titled <i>In Bihar, Is the Election Commission Revising the Electoral Rolls or Compiling an NRC</i>. The relevant paras are quoted herein below:</p> <p>.....</p> <p><i>The first major practical issue is that of timing and feasibility primarily arising from the conditions in rural Bihar such as literacy, computer literacy, availability or lack of power, and the elephant-in-the-room in Bihar – migration.</i></p> <p><i>While it is very nice for the EF to be available on</i></p>

	<p>the ECI website/ECINET but the question arises as to how many electors in rural Bihar will be computer-literate enough to download the EF, or will have the equipment to do so, or will have adequate supply of electricity to do so.</p> <p>Then there is the issue of migration. The propensity of people from Bihar to migrate to other states in search of livelihood is widely known. Imagine the plight of migrants who are earning a living working outside the state, often under difficult conditions. They will not be found 'at home' when the BLO goes to their 'house' in the village to give and then to collect the EF. Will they be in a position to 'download' the EF while working at a construction site in Mumbai?</p> <p>How many such and other unfortunate electors will be disenfranchised because of these impractical provisions is anyone's guess.</p> <p>Thus, the proposed Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls for Bihar, as envisaged by the ECI in the documents available in the public domain so far, appears to be impractical given the schedule the ECI has itself laid down.</p> <p>The revision might result in the disenfranchisement of a substantial number of electors of Bihar.</p> <p>The procedure specified for the revision circumvents and violates existing legal provisions that the ECI has been following for a long time. This has the potential to create legal complications.</p>
01.07.2025	<p>As per ECI, 4.96 crore of the 7.9 crore already have their names in the last intensive revision of electoral rolls in 2003. However, around 1.8 crore electors have either passed away or migrated out of 4.96 crore</p>

electors. The same has been reported by *The Hindu* in its news report titled *Roll crunch: On the revision of Bihar's electoral rolls*. The relevant part is quoted herein below:

..... The objective of ensuring an accurate electoral roll is constitutionally sound as this includes adding all eligible citizens and eliminating ineligible voters such as the dead, those who have shifted and also non-citizens. However, the hurried timeline and the documentation requirements for verification raise serious concerns about the potential exclusion of genuine voters. The ECI has said that Bihar's Draft Electoral Rolls, as of January 1, 2025, stand at close to 7.96 crore electors. It has also said that 4.96 crore individuals, who were on the 2003 electoral roll, will not need to submit fresh documents, and for their children, only an extract of the 2003 roll can serve as proof for their parents. However, the figure from 2003 is not static. A significant number has either passed away or migrated. The Hindu's Data Point estimates this attrition to be around 1.8 crore. Thus, the number of living, resident electors from the 2003 list eligible for simplified verification is closer to 3.16 crore. Consequently, the actual figure of those who need to provide fresh documents for enrolment would be closer to 4.74 crore.

.....Bihar has historically lagged in birth registration, with very few in possession of birth certificates. The possession of other "official" documents such as matriculation certificates and government-issued IDs also remain low among a large section of the population, especially the poor and the less educated. The exclusion of widely available documents such as Aadhaar or current ration cards is also puzzling as these are more accessible to Bihar's marginalised communities. Considering the enormity of the exercise, the ECI should reconsider its approach.

	<p><i>Such an intensive revision should be conducted over a much extended period, and for all States, and completed before the 2029 general election, rather than rushing it through before the Assembly election. The integrity of the electoral process demands caution and time, especially when dealing with the fundamental right to vote.</i></p>
01.07.2025	<p>As per analysis conducted so far and published in <i>The Hindu</i> by Rahul Shastri of Bharat Jodo Abhiyan, the initiative taken by ECI to hold Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls for Bihar will disproportionately disenfranchise the poor and deprived electors irrespective of their party preference. The relevant part is quoted herein below:</p> <p><i>In its press note of June 28, the ECI stated that the electorate count in Bihar is 7.9 crore. As per the ECI, as “4.96 crore of the 7.9 crore already have their names in the last intensive revision of electoral rolls” in 2003, just 2.94 crore individuals will need to submit their eligibility documents.</i></p> <p>....</p> <p><i>This is clearly an oversight. The electoral roll of 2003 for Bihar did have around 4.96 crore individuals. By our calculations from the reports of the Sample Registration System, around 1.1 crore of them are dead. The ECI has taken them off the rolls.</i></p> <p>....</p> <p><i>Plus, there is sizeable number of people who have permanently migrated out of Bihar.</i></p> <p>.....</p> <p><i>Hence, of the 4.96 crore electors in the 2003 list, if we remove those who are dead and those who have migrated from Bihar permanently, around 3.16 crore electors remain in the present count of Bihar’s electorate. These 3.16 crore people who were also on the 2003 list do not need to submit</i></p>

	<p>any eligibility documents. The rest of the 4.74 crore individuals (7.9 crore-3.16 crore) need to submit their documents.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>As per the 2022 caste census, 20.47 lakh Biharis have government jobs. Fewer than half of them will be from the 18-40 age group and pertain to less than 2% of this group.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>As per the National Family Health Survey-3, 2.8% of Bihar's population born between 2001 and 2005 possess a birth certificate. Much of our age group of interest was born before 2001, so a negligible proportion possesses this document.</p>
02.07.2025	<p>A detailed news report published in <i>The Indian Express</i> titled <i>Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls: An attack on the right to vote</i> notes that the onus of being on the voters' list has been shifted from the state to the citizen. Those electors who fail to submit fresh enumeration forms by 25.07.2025 will automatically be left out of the draft rolls. It is even worse for new electors because every person would be required to provide documentary proof of their citizenship to qualify to be on the voters' list. The relevant paras are quoted herein below:</p> <p>.....Such an exercise was carried out in Bihar just six months ago. Lakhs of names were added and deleted, with no significant complaints from any quarter. What the ECI has just ordered is a de novo, fresh writing of the voters' list, first in Bihar, then in other poll-bound states, to be followed by the rest of the country.</p> <p><i>This step is unprecedented. In the garb of an</i></p>

	<p>older exercise called <i>Intensive Revision</i>, which was discontinued after 2003 following the computerisation of the ER, the ECI has unleashed something altogether new and disruptive.</p> <p>...</p> <p>The kind of proof the ECI is demanding for this exercise simply does not exist with a majority of the people. And it is not their fault. The state never supplied them the papers it demands of them today. If you ask any ordinary household for identity papers, they would offer one of the following: Aadhaar, the ECI's photo identity card, ration card or MGNREGS job card. None of these would be accepted by the ECI to enrol someone as a voter.</p> <p>Shastri estimates that around 2.5 crore people (nearly one-third of the current adult population in Bihar) who are required to prove citizenship may not have any of these documents. In reality, the number could be larger if you take routine operational failures (temporary absence, inability to do paperwork, failure to locate certificates, official goof-ups etc.) into account. Even if these are overestimates, and if the actual exclusion is around 1 crore, less than half of the robust empirical estimates, we are still looking at the largest exercise in denial of voting rights.</p> <p>...</p> <p>In Bihar, as in the rest of India, the burden of exclusion based on educational qualifications would fall disproportionately on women, the poor and Dalit-Adivasi and Bahujan communities. This is against the letter and spirit of the Indian Constitution.</p>
04.07.2025	<p>News report published in the <i>Indian Express</i> notes how villagers in Bihar do not possess documents being asked for by the ECI in order of voter names to</p>

appear in electoral rolls in the upcoming elections.

The news report notes:

As per the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls ordered by the Election Commission ahead of the Bihar Assembly polls, residents of the state such as Manjhi whose names did not figure in the 2003 electoral rolls must provide one of 11 documents notified by the EC to prove their "citizenship". None of the three documents possessed by Manjhi, who belongs to a Scheduled Caste family, counts.

"The BLO (booth level officer) has told me that if I get a residence or caste certificate made before July 25, my (voter enrolment) form can be filled," Manjhi says.

This story plays out in village after village in the state, from Nitish's turf Harnaut in Nalanda district, to RJD chief Lalu Prasad's Raghapur in Vaishali. The Raghapur Assembly seat is currently represented by Lalu's son and senior RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav.

In the next 20 days or so, as the monsoon moves in, over 77,000 BLOs along with other government staff and political party workers must check the antecedents of over 7.8 crore registered electors as part of the revision exercise. While a declaration that an applicant is a citizen is required for all new registrations, this time the EC is asking for citizenship proof for all new as well as existing voters.

Across villages in Bihar, this has meant both disquiet and a desperate scramble for residential and caste certificates, the most commonly available of the 11 documents specified by the EC. While district magistrates have issued instructions to expedite these certificates, many are either unaware or confused about the exercise, or are yet to be

	<i>approached by the BLOs with the new electoral forms.</i>
22.11.2025	The current term of the Bihar state assembly will end on 22.11.2025.
04.07.2025	Hence the instant Writ Petition

IN THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. _____ OF 2025

(PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION)

IN THE MATTER OF:

1. ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORMS
THROUGH ITS FOUNDER-TRUSTEE
PROF. JAGDEEP CHHOKAR
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3. ANGAD KUMAR
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[REDACTED]

4. ASHOK KUMAR MAURYA
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

5. RAHUL KUMAR
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

6. NOORSABA ANWAR
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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...PETITIONERS

VERSUS

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
 THROUGH ITS SECRETARY
 NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD
 NEW DELHI – 110001

....RESPONDENT

WRIT PETITION UNDER ARTICLE 32 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA SEEKING SETTING ASIDE OF ORDER AND COMMUNICATION DATED 24.06.2025 ISSUED BY THE RESPONDENT ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA (ECI) DIRECTING FOR SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION OF ELECTORAL ROLLS IN BIHAR AS BEING IN VIOLATION OF ARTICLES 14, 19, 21, 325 AND 326 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA AS WELL AS PROVISIONS OF REPRESENTATION OF PEOPLE'S ACT, 1950 AND RULE 21A OF THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS RULES, 1960.

**TO,
 THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA
 AND THE COMPANION JUDGES OF
 THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

**THE HUMBLE PETITION OF
 THE PETITIONER ABOVE-NAMED**

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH

1. The present Writ Petition has been filed under Article 32 of the Constitution of India seeking setting aside of Order AND Communication dated 24.06.2025 issued by the Respondent Election Commission of India (ECI) directing for Special Intensive

Revision of Electoral Rolls in Bihar (SIR Order) as being in violation of Articles 14, 19, 21, 325 and 326 of the Constitution of India as well as provisions of Representation of People's Act, 1950 and Rule 21A of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. The SIR order dated 24.06.2025 if not set aside, can arbitrarily and without due process disenfranchise lakhs of voters from electing their representatives, thereby disrupting free and fair elections and democracy in the country, which are part of basic structure of the Constitution. That the documentation requirements of the directive, lack of due process as well as the unreasonably short timeline for the said Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Roll in Bihar further make this exercise bound to result in removal of names of lakhs of genuine voters from electoral rolls leading to their disenfranchisement.

2.

(a) The Petitioner No. 1 herein is Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), a trust registered with Registration No. F/9/9339/AHMEDABAD. ADR has been at the forefront of electoral reforms in the country for the last 20 years from wide-ranging activities including advocacy for transparent functioning of political parties, conducting a detailed analysis of candidates in every election, and researching the financial records of political parties including their income-tax returns. It was on ADR's petition that this Hon'ble Court ordered all election candidates to declare their criminal records and financial assets. The Petitioner herein also challenged the electoral bond scheme (W.P. (C) No. 880 of 2017) wherein this Hon'ble Court held that the Electoral Bond Scheme was unconstitutional for violating the right to information of voters. The organization is registered as Public

Trust under Mumbai Public Trust Act, 1950. Under the practice followed by ADR, the Founder-Trustee Prof. Jagdeep S Chhokar is authorized to institute proceedings on behalf of Petitioner trust. The Registration Certificate of Petitioner trust and authority letter

[REDACTED]

(b) Respondent herein is Election Commission of India through its Secretary.

(c) The nature of injury caused to the public *vide* order and communication dated 24.06.2025 is grave as it can arbitrarily and without due process disenfranchise lakhs of voters from electing their representatives, thereby disrupting free and fair elections and democracy in the country, which are part of basic structure of the Constitution. The said order issued by the ECI further

violate Article 14,19,21, 326 and 325 of the Constitution of India guaranteed to its citizens.

- (d) The Petitioners have no personal interest or any private/oblique motive in filing the instant petition, except to the extent of being a member of general public.
- (e) There is no civil, criminal, revenue or any litigation involving the Petitioners herein, which has or could have a legal nexus with the issues involved in the PIL.
- (f) That no other similar petition filed by the petitioners is currently pending before this Hon'ble Court or any other High Court.
- (g) That the Petitioners have not filed any representation in regard to the present matter.

Brief facts

3. The Respondent i.e., Election Commission of India (ECI) under Article 324 of the Constitution of India and Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, has issued an order dated 24.06.2025 directing the conduct of Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls of each Assembly Constituency in the State of Bihar. The relevant para of order dated 24.06.2025 is quoted herein below:

.....

7. Whereas, the Commission has noted that during the last 20 years significant change in electoral roll has taken place due to additions and deletions on a large scale over this long period. Rapid urbanization and frequent migration of population from one place to another on account of education, livelihood and other reasons, have become a regular trend. Some electors obtain registration in one place and then shift their residence and register themselves at another place without getting their names deleted from the electoral roll of the initial place of residence. This has led to increased possibility of repeated entries in the electoral roll. Thus, the

situation warrants an intensive verification drive to verify each person before enrolment as an Elector;

- 8. Whereas, one of the fundamental pre-conditions set out in Article 326 of the Constitution is that a person is required to be an Indian citizen, for his/her name to be registered in the electoral roll. Consequently, the Commission has a constitutional obligation to ensure that only persons who are citizens;*
- 10. Therefore, the Commission has now decided to begin the Special Intensive Revision in the entire country for the discharge of its constitutional mandate to protect the integrity of the electoral rolls; However, since the General Elections to the Legislative Assembly in the State of Bihar is expected in later part of this year, hence the Commission has decided to conduct Special Intensive Revision in the State of Bihar as per the Guidelines and schedule attached herewith. The schedule for the Special Intensive Revision in the rest of the country shall be issued separately in due course.*
- 12. Any person whose name is not recorded in the 2003 Electoral Roll shall for the purpose of registration in the electoral roll is required to submit from amongst a wide range of eligible government documents as prescribed for establishing their eligibility to be an elector.*
- 13. Since the existing Electoral rolls were published on 06.01.2025 under Special Summary Revision, and continuously updated since then, the Commission further directs that a pre-filled enumeration form shall be made available to every existing elector as on the date of issue of this order and the draft roll shall include the names of all the electors who have submitted a duly filled Enumeration Form before July 25, 2025. This being an intensive revision, in case enumeration form is not submitted before July 25, 2025, the name of the elector can not be included in the draft rolls. However, CEO/DEO/ERO/BLO should also take care that genuine electors, particularly old, sick, PwD, poor and other vulnerable groups are not harassed and are facilitated to the extent possible, including through deployment of volunteers.*

14. Any person whose name is not recorded in the 2003 Electoral Roll shall for the purpose of registration in the electoral roll is required to submit from amongst a wide range of eligible government documents as prescribed for establishing their eligibility to be an elector.

A copy of the order dated 24.06.2025 issued by the ECI is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE P1 (Pg 52 to 67)**.

- 4.** The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls process in Bihar, as outlined by the ECI, involves a comprehensive revision of the electoral rolls ahead of the state assembly elections due before 22.11.2025. The SIR process *inter alia* includes the following:

a) Intensive Revision: The ECI has directed a "Special Intensive Revision" under Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and Rule 25 of the RER, 1960, which allows for intensive, summary, or mixed revisions of electoral rolls, as may be directed by the ECI. In an intensive revision, the electoral roll is prepared afresh, which may involve re-verifying existing voters.

b) New Documentation Requirements: For the SIR in Bihar, the ECI has introduced a new and stringent requirement for voters to provide proof of citizenship, particularly for those not registered in the 2003 electoral roll. Acceptable documents include passports, birth certificates, SC/ST certificates, or an extract of the 2003 Bihar electoral roll showing the names of the voter's parents. The SIR process requires an individual born between 01.07.2025 and 02.12.2004 to provide a document for self (from among a list of 11 documents) AND a document for father or mother (from among the list of 11 documents) establishing date of birth and/or place of birth. For an individual born in India after 02.12.2004, in addition

to proof of one's own documents establishing one's date of birth and/or place of birth, the documents (from among a list of 11 documents) of both father and mother establishing their place and/or date of birth has to be provided. In case either of the parents is not Indian, then a copy of his/her passport & visa at the time of the elector's birth has to be provided. It is to be noted that Aadhaar and EPIC card do not in the list of documents sought by ECI, which is given hereinbelow:

- i. Any Identity card/Pension Payment Order issued to regular employee/pensioner of any Central Govt./State Govt./PSU.
- ii. Any Identity Card/Certificate/Document issued in India by Government/ local authorities/Banks/Post Office/LIC/PSUs prior to 01.07.1987.
- iii. Birth Certificate issued by the competent authority.
- iv. Passport
- v. Matriculation/Educational certificate issued by recognised Boards/universities
- vi. Permanent Residence certificate issued by competent State authority.
- vii. Forest Right Certificate
- viii. OBC/SC/ST or any caste certificate issued by the Competent authority
- ix. National Register of Citizens (wherever it exists)
- x. Family Register, prepared by State/Local authorities.
- xi. Any land/house allotment certificate by Government

c) Role of Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) and Booth

Level Officers (BLOs): From June 25 to July 26, 2025, BLOs are tasked with visiting households to distribute and collect pre-filled EFs, verify voter details, and collect additional documentation if required. The guidelines further mention that “...in case enumeration form is not submitted before July 25, 2025, the name of the elector cannot be included in the draft

rolls.” After publication of the draft rolls, EROs shall scrutinise the eligibility of proposed electors as per Article 326, and Sections 16 and 19 of RP Act, based on documents submitted. Where ERO doubts the eligibility of a proposed voter, he /she can initiate a *suo moto* enquiry and issue notice to such elector why his/her name should not be deleted and decide whether to include the name in final rolls. EROs will further refer cases of suspected foreign nationals to the competent authority under the Citizenship Act, 1955.

d) Timeline and Publication: The SIR process began on June 25, 2025. As per ECI’s timeline, by 25.07.2025, all Enumeration Forms have to be submitted by voters. Draft electoral rolls based on collected Enumeration Forms have to be prepared by 01.08.2025. Claims and Objections to be heard between 01.08.2025 to 01.09.2025. The final electoral roll is to be published by September 30, 2025.

5. That the ECI *vide* letter dated 24.06.2024 conveyed instructions to the Chief Electoral Officer Bihar, Patna to carry out Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise of the electoral rolls in Bihar. The relevant part of the communication *vide* letter dated 24.06.2024 is quoted herein below:

1. *I am directed to convey that the Commission has directed a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in exercise of its powers under Article 324, Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (the “RPA 1950”), along with other applicable provisions of the RPA 1950, with reference to 01.07.2025 as the qualifying date, in the State of Bihar, where general election to state Legislative Assembly is due in 2025 (Annexure A).*

2. *While carrying out the SIR of the electoral rolls, ERO of each Assembly Constituency shall be responsible for*

ensuring that no eligible citizen is left out while no ineligible person is included in the Electoral Roll. During the SIR, CEO/DEO will aid ERO to fulfil the constitutional mandate that every eligible person, as per Article 326 of the Constitution of India read with Section 16 and 19 of the RPA 1950, is enrolled as Elector. For this, EROs shall satisfy themselves regarding the eligibility of every person before entering their name in the electoral roll. The detailed guidelines are attached (Annexure B).

3. During SIR, EROs through the BLOs shall conduct House to House enumeration. Every existing elector, as on the date of this order, will be made available an Enumeration Form (Annexure C), either through BLO or the elector can download the Enumeration Form from <<https://voters.eci.gov.in>>. BLO shall collect one copy of the Enumeration Form and sign the acknowledgment of receipt on the second copy to be retained by the existing elector. Based on the Enumeration Forms received back along with documents, ERO will prepare the draft roll.

4. Further, in case of application for registration as a new elector or for shifting from outside the state, it is also directed that henceforth, alongwith Form 6/Form 8, an additional Declaration Form (Annexure D) shall also be required to be filled by the applicant to support the declaration made therein.

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A copy of the letter dated 24.06.2025 sent by the ECI to CEO, Bihar is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE P2 (Pg 58 to 70)**.

6. That ECI along with its order dated 24.06.2025 further issued detailed guidelines to carry out Special Intensive Revision in Bihar.

The relevant part of the guidelines for SIR is quoted herein below:

4. Publication of draft roll:

a. ERO shall prepare the draft Electoral Roll by including all the Electors whose Enumeration Forms have been received from the electors. Decision on the Enumeration Forms so received shall be taken

after draft publication during the claims & objection period. However, ERO/AERO shall start scrutinising Enumeration Forms, as and when they are received to identify the cases with suspected eligibility.

- b. Draft electoral roll shall consist of names of all the existing electors who have submitted their duly filled Enumeration Form to the BLO during the H2H enumeration period or which have been received online and verified by BLO. Names of other electors, from whom Enumeration Forms are not received will not be included in the draft roll.
- c. In case any elector is unable to submit their filled in enumeration forms within the specified time, they may file Form 6 alongwith the prescribed Declaration Form (Annexure D) for inclusion during the claims and objections period.

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5. Period of Claims and Objections

- a. After publication of the draft Electoral Rolls, ERO/AERO shall scrutinise the eligibility of proposed Electors in accordance with the qualification of Electors prescribed under Article 326 and Section 16 & 19 of RPA 1950. To do so, ERO/AERO shall come to his/her satisfaction based on the documents submitted and field reports.
- b. In case ERO/AERO doubts the eligibility of the proposed Elector (due to non-submission of requisite documents or otherwise), he/she will start a suo moto inquiry and issue notice to such proposed Elector, as to why his/her should not be deleted. Based on field inquiry, documentation or otherwise, ERO/AERO shall decide on inclusion of such proposed Electors in the Final Rolls. In each such case, ERO/AERQ shall pass a speaking order. Also, EROs will refer cases of suspected foreign nationals to the competent authority under the Citizenship Act, 1955. For these purposes, AERO shall exercise ERO's powers independently u/s 13C(2) of the RPA, 1950.

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7. In addition to the above, on 24.06.2025 the ECI also issued a Press Note stating that Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls in Bihar would commence from 25.06.2025. A copy of the Press Note dated 24.06.2025 issued by the ECI is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE P3 (Pg 71 to 74)**.
8. ECI issued a Press Note dated 28.06.2025 stating that SIR has already started in Bihar for verifying the eligibility of each elector. A copy of the Press Note dated 28.06.2025 issued by the ECI is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE P4 (Pg 75)**.
9. That the Enumeration Form has to be filled by three categories of individuals. The declaration that needs to be submitted along with Enumeration Form is quoted herein below:

DECLARATION

I HEREBY DECLARE that to the best of my knowledge and belief-

(i) I am above 18 years of age, ordinary resident on the above address and a citizen of India, and (tick any one)

☐ *I was born in India before 01.07.1987*

- *Provide any document, for Self, from the list given below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.*

☐ *I was born in India between 01.07.1987 and 02.12.2004*

- *Provide any document, for Self, from the list given below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.*
- *Provide any document, for Father or Mother, from the list given below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.*

☐ *I was born in India after 02.12.2004*

- *Provide any document, for Self, from the list given*

below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.

- *Provide any document, for Father, from the list given below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.*
- *Provide any document, for Mother, from the list given below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.*
- *If any parent is not Indian, provide a copy of his/her valid passport & visa at the time of your birth.*

☐ *I was born outside of India (attach proof of Birth Registration issued by Indian Mission abroad),*

☐ *I have acquired Indian citizenship by Registration/Naturalisation (attach Certificate of Registration of Citizenship)*

- (ii) *I have not acquired the citizenship of any other country.*
- (iii) *I am applying for inclusion in the Electoral Roll and my name is not included in any other Assembly Constituency/ Parliamentary Constituency.*
- (iv) *I am aware that making the above statement or declaration in relation to this application which is false and which I know or believe to be false or do not believe to be true, is punishable under Section 31 of Representation of the People Act, 1950 (43 of 1950) with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine or with both.*

Date: Place:

Signature/ Left Thumb Impression

Indicative (not exhaustive) list of documents to be submitted in support of the declaration (separate self attested documents to be submitted for Self, Father and Mother, if mentioned above, except where extract of the Electoral Roll of Bihar with qualifying date 01.01.2003 is used, which will be considered as a sufficient document in itself):

- i. Any Identity card/Pension Payment Order issued to regular employee/pensioner of any Central Govt./State Govt./PSU.
- ii. Any Identity Card/Certificate/Document issued in India by Government/local authorities/Banks/Post Office/LIC/PSUs prior to 01.07.1987.
- iii. Birth Certificate issued by the competent authority.
- iv. Passport
- v. Matriculation/Educational certificate issued by recognised Boards/universities
- vi. Permanent Residence certificate issued by competent State authority.
- vii. Forest Right Certificate
- viii. OBC/SC/ST or any caste certificate issued by the Competent authority
- ix. National Register of Citizens (wherever it exists)
- x. Family Register, prepared by State/Local authorities.
- xi. Any land/house allotment certificate by Government

10. The Declaration Form is to be submitted by new electors or those shifting from outside the state alongwith Form 6/Form 8. ECI has given indicative (not exhaustive) list of 11 documents to be submitted in support of the declaration form. The Declaration Form is quoted herein below:

DECLARATION FORM

(To be submitted alongwith Form 6/8 for enrolment as a new Elector/ shifting from outside the state)

I HEREBY DECLARE that to the best of my knowledge and belief-

- (i) *I am above 18 years of age, ordinary resident on the above address and a citizen of India, and (tick any one)*

☐ *I was born in India before 01.07.1987*

- *Provide any document, for Self, from the list given*

below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.

☐ *I was born in India between 01.07.1987 and 02.12.2004*

- *Provide any document, for Self, from the list given below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.*
- *Provide any document, for Father or Mother, from the list given below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.*

☐ *I was born in India after 02.12.2004*

- *Provide any document, for Self, from the list given below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.*
- *Provide any document, for Father, from the list given below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.*
- *Provide any document, for Mother, from the list given below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.*
- *If any parent is not Indian, provide a copy of his/her valid passport & visa at the time of your birth.*

☐ *I was born outside of India (attach proof of Birth Registration issued by Indian Mission abroad),*

☐ *I have acquired Indian citizenship by Registration/Naturalisation (attach Certificate of Registration of Citizenship)*

(ii) I have not acquired the citizenship of any other country.

(iii) I am applying for inclusion in the Electoral Roll and my name is not included in any other Assembly Constituency/ Parliamentary Constituency.

(iv) I am aware that making the above statement or declaration in relation to this application which is false and which I know or believe to be false or do not believe to be true, is punishable under Section 31 of Representation of the People Act, 1950 (43 of 1950) with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one

year or with fine or with both.

Date: Place:

Signature/ Left Thumb Impression

Indicative (not exhaustive) list of documents to be submitted in support of the declaration (separate self attested documents to be submitted for Self, Father and Mother, if mentioned above, except where extract of the Electoral Roll of Bihar with qualifying date 01.01.2003 is used, which will be considered as a sufficient document in itself):

- xii. Any Identity card/Pension Payment Order issued to regular employee/pensioner of any Central Govt./State Govt./PSU.*
- xiii. Any Identity Card/Certificate/Document issued in India by Government/ local authorities/Banks/Post Office/LIC/PSUs prior to 01.07.1987.*
- xiv. Birth Certificate issued by the competent authority.*
- xv. Passport*
- xvi. Matriculation/Educational certificate issued by recognised Boards/universities*
- xvii. Permanent Residence certificate issued by competent State authority.*
- xviii. Forest Right Certificate*
- xix. OBC/SC/ST or any caste certificate issued by the Competent authority*
- xx. National Register of Citizens (wherever it exists)*
- xxi. Family Register, prepared by State/Local authorities.*
- xxii. Any land/house allotment certificate by Government*

11. The timeline as provided in ECI directive is mentioned herein below:

25.06.2025 to 26.07.2025	(i) ERO to print pre-filled Enumeration Form (in duplicate) for all existing electors and give it to the respective BLOs.
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	<p>(ii) ERO to give training to BLOs about the Revision Exercise.</p> <p>(iii) BLO to distribute Enumeration Form to all existing electors (in duplicate) through House to House visit.</p> <p>(iv) BLO to guide the public on filling up Enumeration Form.</p> <p>(v) BLO to collect Enumeration Forms from the public, along with required documents, or the public can also upload Enumeration Forms and documents online.</p> <p>(vi) Uploading collected Forms in BLO App/ECINet, on a day-to-day basis.</p> <p>(vii) BLO to give recommendations on each Enumeration Form so received.</p> <p>(viii) BLO Supervisor to check the BLO's output in quantitative as well as qualitative terms.</p> <p>(viii) AERO to verify all Enumeration Forms not-recommended by BLOs.</p>
25.06.2025 to 26.07.2025	Rationalization/Re-arrangement of Polling Stations and finalization proposed restructuring of section/part boundaries, location of polling stations and obtaining approval of list of polling stations. A polling Station shall preferably contain not more than 1,200 electors
27. 07.2025 to 31.07.2025	Updation of Control Table and Preparation of draft roll having names of all the existing electors who submitted the duly filled Enumeration Forms.
01.08.2025	Publication of draft electoral roll
01.08.2025 to 01.09.2025	Period for filing claims & objections
By 25.09.2025	Decision on Enumeration Forms received during H2H enumeration period and disposal of claims and objections to be done concurrently and to be completed by the EROs by
By	(i) Checking of health parameters of the finalised

27.09.2025	electoral rolls and obtaining Commission's permission for final publication. (ii) Updating database and printing of supplements
30.09.2025	Final Publication of Electoral Roll

12. That on 30.06.2025, ECI issued another Press Note noting that individuals whose names appear in the 2003 Bihar Electoral Role do not need to submit any documents and children of these individuals need not submit document related to their mother or father. A copy of the Press Note dated 30.06.2025 issued by the ECI is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE P5 (Pg 76)**).

Legal Provisions

13. Article 324 of the Constitution of India reads as follows:

324 Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission

(1) The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State and of elections to the offices of President and Vice-President held under this Constitution shall be vested in a Commission (referred to in this Constitution as the Election Commission).

(2)....

(3)....

14. Article 325 ensures that no one is denied the right to be included in or claim to be included in an electoral roll based on religion, race, caste, or sex. Article 325 reads as follows

325. No person to be ineligible for inclusion in, or to claim to be included in a special, electoral roll on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex

There shall be one general electoral roll for every territorial constituency for election to either House of Parliament or to the House or either House of the Legislature of a State and no person shall be ineligible for inclusion in any such roll or claim to be included in any special electoral roll for any such constituency on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or any of them.

15. The right to vote is guaranteed under Article 326 of the Constitution of India which reads as follows:

326. Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be on the basis of adult suffrage

The elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assembly of every State shall be on the basis of adult suffrage; that is to say, every person who is a citizen of India and who is not less than eighteen years of age on such date as may be fixed in that behalf by or under any law made by the appropriate Legislature and is not otherwise disqualified under this Constitution or any law made by the appropriate Legislature on the ground of non-residence, unsoundness of mind, crime or corrupt or illegal practice, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter at any such election.

16. Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, authorises the ECI, to direct a special revision of the electoral roll for any constituency or part of a constituency in such manner as it may think fit at any time, for reasons to be recorded. Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 reads as follows:

21. Preparation and revision of electoral rolls. —

(1) The electoral roll for each constituency shall be prepared in the prescribed manner by reference to the qualifying date and shall come into force immediately upon its final publication in accordance with the rules made under this Act.

(2) The said electoral roll—

(a) shall, unless otherwise directed by the Election Commission for reasons to be recorded in writing, be revised in the prescribed manner by reference to the qualifying date—

- (i) before each general election to the House of the People or to the Legislative Assembly of a State; and
- (ii) before each bye-election to fill a casual vacancy in a seat allotted to the constituency; and

(b) shall be revised in any year in the prescribed manner by reference to the qualifying date if such revision has been directed by the Election Commission:

Provided that if the electoral roll is not revised as aforesaid, the validity or continued operation of the said electoral roll shall not thereby be affected.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2), the Election Commission may at any time, for reasons to be recorded, direct a special revision of the electoral roll for any constituency or part of a constituency in such manner as it may think fit:

Provided that subject to the other provisions of this Act, the electoral roll for the constituency, as in force at the time of the issue of any such direction, shall continue to be in force until the completion of the special revision so directed.

A copy of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE P6 (Pg 77 to 102)**.

17. Section 62 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act 1951) elaborates on the criteria for voter eligibility and disqualification. It ensures that anyone who is listed in the electoral roll of a constituency has the right to vote. Section 62 of the Act is quoted herein below:

62. Right to vote.—

(1) No person who is not, and except as expressly provided by this Act, every person who is, for the time being entered in the electoral roll of any constituency

shall be entitled to vote in that constituency.

(2) No person shall vote at an election in any constituency if he is subject to any of the disqualifications referred to in section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (43 of 1950).

(3) No person shall vote at a general election in more than one constituency of the same class, and if a person votes in more than one such constituency, his votes in all such constituencies shall be void.

(4) No person shall at any election vote in the same constituency more than once, notwithstanding that his name may have been registered in the electoral roll for that constituency more than once, and if he does so vote, all his votes in that constituency shall be void.

(5) No person shall vote at any election if he is confined in a prison, whether under a sentence of imprisonment or transportation or otherwise, or is in the lawful custody of the police: Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall apply to a person subjected to preventive detention under any law for the time being in force. 1 [Provided further that by reason of the prohibition to vote under this sub-section, a person whose name has been entered in the electoral roll shall not cease to be an elector.]

(6) Nothing contained in sub-sections (3) and (4) shall apply to a person who has been authorised to vote as proxy for an elector under this Act in so far as he votes as a proxy for such elector.

18. Section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 states the following:

16. Disqualifications for registration in an electoral roll.—

(1) A person shall be disqualified for registration in an electoral roll if he—

(a) is not a citizen of India; or

(b) is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court; or

(c) is for the time being disqualified from voting under the provisions of any law relating to corrupt practices and other offenses in connection with elections.

(2) The name of any person who becomes so

disqualified after registration shall forthwith be struck off the electoral roll in which it is included:

Provided that the name of any person struck off the electoral roll of a constituency by reason of a disqualification under clause (c) of sub-section (1) shall forthwith be reinstated in that roll if such disqualification is, during the period such roll is in force, removed under any law authorizing such removal.

19. Section 19 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 states the following:

19. Notice of hearing claims and objections.—

(1) Where a claim or objection is not disposed of under rule 17 or rule 18, the registration officer shall—

(a) specify in the list exhibited by him under clause (b) of rule 16, the date, time and place of hearing of the claim or objection; and

(b) give notice of the hearing—

(i) in the case of a claim to the claimant in Form 12;

(ii) in the case of an objection to the inclusion of a name, to the objector in Form 13 and to the person objected to in Form 14; and

(iii) in the case of an objection to a particular or particulars in an entry, to the objector in Form 15.

(2) A notice under this rule may be given either personally or by registered post or by affixing it to the person's residence or last known residence within the constituency.

20. The Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, made under the Representation of People Act, 1950, provides rules governing the preparation, revision and maintenance of electoral rolls. It further provides for the procedure for claims and objections related to voter registration. Rule 21A of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 provides a process for deletion of names registered in the electoral roll. It is submitted that ECI order dated 24.06.2025 is in violation

of the due process laid down in Rule 21A. Rule 21A is quoted herein below:

21A. Deletion of names.—*If it appears to the registration officer at any time before the final publication of the roll that owing to inadvertence or error or otherwise, the names of dead persons or of persons who have ceased to be, or are not, ordinarily residents in the constituency or of persons who are otherwise not entitled to be registered in that roll, have been included in the roll and that remedial action should be taken under this rule, the registration officer, shall—*

- (a) prepare a list of the names and other details of such electors;*
- (b) exhibit on the notice board of his office a copy of the list together with a notice as to the time and place at which the question of deletion of these names from the roll will be considered, and also publish the list and the notice in such other manner as he may think fit; and*
- (c) after considering any verbal or written objections that may be preferred, decide whether all or any of the names should be deleted from the roll:*

Provided that before taking any action under this rule in respect of any person on the ground that he has ceased to be, or is not, ordinarily resident in the constituency, or is otherwise not entitled to be registered in that roll, the registration officer shall make every endeavour to give him a reasonable opportunity to show cause why the action proposed should not be taken in relation to him.

21. Rule 25 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 states that the roll for every constituency shall be revised under sub-section (2) of section 21 either intensively or summarily or partly intensively and partly summarily, as the Election Commission may direct. Rule 25 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 reads as follows :

25. Revision of rolls.—

(1) The roll for every constituency shall be revised under sub-section (2) of section 21 either intensively or summarily or partly intensively and partly summarily, as the Election Commission may direct.

(2) Where the roll or any part thereof is to be revised intensively in any year, it shall be prepared afresh and rules 4 to 23 shall apply in relation to such revision as they apply in relation to the first preparation of a roll.

(3) When the roll or any part thereof is to be revised summarily in any year, the registration officer shall cause to be prepared a list of amendments to the relevant parts of the roll on the basis of such information as may be readily available and publish the roll together with the list of amendments in draft; and the provisions of rules 2 [8A] to 23 shall apply in relation to such revision as they apply in relation to the first preparation of a roll.

(4) Where at any time between the publication in draft of the revised roll under sub-rule (2) or of the roll and list of amendments under sub-rule (3) and the final publication of the same under rule 22, any names have been directed to be included in the roll for the time being in force under section 23, the registration officer shall cause the names to be included also in the revised roll unless there is, in his opinion, any valid objection to such inclusion.

A copy of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE P7 (Pg 103 to 147)**.

22. That a Special Summary Revision (SSR) was conducted in Bihar between 29.10.2024 and 06.01.2025 which addressed issues such as migration, death and deletion of ineligible voters. Existing electoral roll in Bihar was updated and published on 06.01.2025 under Special Summary Revision and had been continuously updated since then.

23. That on 24.12.2024, ECI published FAQs on process of annual

revision/ updation of Electoral Rolls. The relevant FAQs and answers are quoted herein below:

Q2. What are the stages of Special Summery Revision of ER?

Ans. The SSR of electoral rolls involves two main stages:

(i) Pre-revision activities mainly include training of official, House-to-House verification by the Booth Level Officers (BLO) for identification of un-enrolled eligible electors, identification of discrepancies, removal of multiple/shifted/dead electors, standardization of addresses, rationalization and modification of polling stations, updation of control tables, preparation of website, integration of supplements and preparation of draft roll.

(ii) Revision activities: The actual revision starts with the publication of Draft electoral roll. With the publication of draft electoral roll, the ERO invites claims and objections from all eligible citizens and after processing of such applications, with due procedure, inclusion/deletions/correction of entries is carried out by ERO. Discrepancies already identified by BLOs during the pre-revision activities are also taken-up for removal during this period. All the inclusions, deletions and correction carried out during this period are updated in the electoral roll database and Electoral Roll is finally published on the date as per approved schedule.

Q9. Whether name of an elector can be deleted without any enquiry and field verification?

Ans. No. No entry from the electoral roll can be deleted without following the due procedure. To prevent wrongful deletion from the electoral roll, the following safeguards are in place:

- **Verification of Death:** Deletions due to registered death are only made after proper verification, including the submission of a death certificate.
- **Deletion Due to Death (Unregistered):** Deletions based on unregistered deaths and shifting are made only after receiving Form-7.
- **Field Verification:** Field verification report of BLO is necessary for each case of deletion. During field

verification, BLO provide specific remarks about the status of shifting or death cases.

- **Shifting:** *For deletions due to shifting, Form-8 must be submitted by the concerned elector. The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) will confirm the elector's previous enrolment and identity before allowing additions at a new address.*
- **Notice Requirement:** *In all cases of proposed deletions (except confirmed deaths), a notice must be issued to the elector concerned and served, giving them a reasonable opportunity for a hearing.*
- **Cross Verification:** *For deletions in areas where more than 2% of electors are removed or where the same person objects to more than 5 cases, the Electoral Registration Officer personally verifies the deletions to ensure accuracy.*

A copy of FAQs on process of annual revision/ updation of Electoral Rolls published by ECI is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE P8 (Pg 148 to 171)**.

- 24.** It is submitted that SIR's requirement for citizenship documentation disproportionately affects marginalized communities, including Muslims, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and migrant workers, who may lack access to such documents.
- 25.** That Bihar is a state with high poverty and migration rates where many lack access to documents like birth certificates or parental records. As per estimates over 3 crore voters and more particularly from marginalized communities (such as SC, STs and migrant workers) could be excluded from voting due to the stringent requirements as mentioned in the SIR order.
- 26.** The timeline provided for the SIR process does not provide voters enough time to comply with all the requirements or to challenge deletion of their names. The requirement for Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to collect pre-filled Enumeration Forms and additional

documents within a short period (25.06.2025 to 26.07x.2025) places an unreasonable burden on voters, particularly those who are illiterate, elderly, or disabled. The absence of a robust appeal mechanism accessible to rural and marginalized voters violates the principles of natural justice.

- 27.** That the authorized signatory of the petitioner organization in his article published in “*The Wire*” titled *In Bihar, Is the Election Commission Revising the Electoral Rolls or Compiling an NRC*” raised the following concerns:

“.....

The first major practical issue is that of timing and feasibility primarily arising from the conditions in rural Bihar such as literacy, computer literacy, availability or lack of power, and the elephant-in-the-room in Bihar – migration.

While it is very nice for the EF to be available on the ECI website/ECINET but the question arises as to how many electors in rural Bihar will be computer-literate enough to download the EF, or will have the equipment to do so, or will have adequate supply of electricity to do so.

Then there is the issue of migration. The propensity of people from Bihar to migrate to other states in search of livelihood is widely known. Imagine the plight of migrants who are earning a living working outside the state, often under difficult conditions. They will not be found ‘at home’ when the BLO goes to their ‘house’ in the village to give and then to collect the EF. Will they be in a position to ‘download’ the EF while working at a construction site in Mumbai?

How many such and other unfortunate electors will be disenfranchised because of these impractical provisions is anyone’s guess.

Thus, the proposed Special Intensive Revision of

electoral rolls for Bihar, as envisaged by the ECI in the documents available in the public domain so far, appears to be impractical given the schedule the ECI has itself laid down.

The revision might result in the disenfranchisement of a substantial number of electors of Bihar.

The procedure specified for the revision circumvents and violates existing legal provisions that the ECI has been following for a long time. This has the potential to create legal complications.”

A copy of opinion piece dated 27.06.2025 titled *In Bihar, Is the Election Commission Revising the Electoral Rolls or Compiling an NRC* by *The Wire* is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE P9 (Pg 172 to 178)**.

- 28.** *The Hindu* in its report dated 01.07.2025 titled *Roll crunch: On the revision of Bihar’s electoral rolls*” highlights that the state of Bihar has historically lagged in possession of birth certificates and other official documents such as matriculation certificates and government-issued IDs. The relevant part is quoted herein below:

..... However, the hurried timeline and the documentation requirements for verification raise serious concerns about the potential exclusion of genuine voters. The ECI has said that Bihar’s Draft Electoral Rolls, as of January 1, 2025, stand at close to 7.96 crore electors. It has also said that 4.96 crore individuals, who were on the 2003 electoral roll, will not need to submit fresh documents, and for their children, only an extract of the 2003 roll can serve as proof for their parents. However, the figure from 2003 is not static. A significant number has either passed away or migrated. The Hindu’s Data Point estimates this attrition to be around 1.8 crore. Thus, the number of living, resident electors from the 2003 list eligible for simplified verification is closer to 3.16 crore. Consequently, the actual figure of those who need to

provide fresh documents for enrolment would be closer to 4.74 crore.

.....Bihar has historically lagged in birth registration, with very few in possession of birth certificates. The possession of other “official” documents such as matriculation certificates and government-issued IDs also remain low among a large section of the population, especially the poor and the less educated. The exclusion of widely available documents such as Aadhaar or current ration cards is also puzzling as these are more accessible to Bihar’s marginalised communities. Considering the enormity of the exercise, the ECI should reconsider its approach. Such an intensive revision should be conducted over a much extended period, and for all States, and completed before the 2029 general election, rather than rushing it through before the Assembly election. The integrity of the electoral process demands caution and time, especially when dealing with the fundamental right to vote.

A copy of the news report dated 01.07.2025 titled *Roll crunch: On the revision of Bihar’s electoral rolls* published by *The Hindu* is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE P10 (Pg 179)**).

- 29.** That as per analysis conducted so far and published in *The Hindu* by Rahul Shastri of Bharat Jodo Abhiyan, the initiative taken by ECI to hold Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls for Bihar will disproportionately disenfranchise the poor and deprived electors irrespective of their party preference. The relevant part is quoted herein below:

In its press note of June 28, the ECI stated that the electorate count in Bihar is 7.9 crore. As per the ECI, as “4.96 crore of the 7.9 crore already have their names in the last intensive revision of electoral rolls” in 2003, just 2.94 crore individuals will need to submit their eligibility documents. This is clearly an oversight. The electoral roll of 2003 for Bihar did have around

4.96 crore individuals. By our calculations from the reports of the Sample Registration System, around 1.1 crore of them are dead. The ECI has taken them off the rolls.

....

Plus, there is sizeable number of people who have permanently migrated out of Bihar.

.....

Hence, of the 4.96 crore electors in the 2003 list, if we remove those who are dead and those who have migrated from Bihar permanently, around 3.16 crore electors remain in the present count of Bihar's electorate. These 3.16 crore people who were also on the 2003 list do not need to submit any eligibility documents. The rest of the 4.74 crore individuals (7.9 crore-3.16 crore) need to submit their documents.

.....

As per the 2022 caste census, 20.47 lakh Biharis have government jobs. Fewer than half of them will be from the 18-40 age group and pertain to less than 2% of this group.

.....

As per the National Family Health Survey-3, 2.8% of Bihar's population born between 2001 and 2005 possess a birth certificate. Much of our age group of interest was born before 2001, so a negligible proportion possesses this document.

A copy of the news report dated 01.07.2025 titled *Voter verification drive in Bihar: too little time, too many hurdles* by The Hindu is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE P11 (Pg 180 to 184)**. A copy of the relevant extract of Survey Report – 2 dated 1998-99 is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE P12 (Pg 185 to 186)**. A copy of relevant extract of NFHS Survey Report – 3 dated 2005-06 is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE P13 (Pg 187 to 188)**. A copy of the relevant extract of NFHS Survey Report – 5 dated 2019-2021 is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE P14 (Pg 189 to 190)**.

30. It is submitted that for first time, the onus of being on the voters' list has been shifted from the state to the citizen. Those electors who fail to submit fresh enumeration forms by 25.07.2025 will automatically be left out of the draft rolls. It is even worse for new electors because every person would be required to provide documentary proof of their citizenship to qualify to be on the voters' list. A detailed article by Yogendra Yadav, member of Swaraj Abhiyan and convenor Bharat Jodo Abhiyan, has been published by *The Indian Express* titled *Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls: An attack on the right to vote*. The relevant paras are quoted herein below:

".....Such an exercise was carried out in Bihar just six months ago. Lakhs of names were added and deleted, with no significant complaints from any quarter. What the ECI has just ordered is a de novo, fresh writing of the voters' list, first in Bihar, then in other poll-bound states, to be followed by the rest of the country.

This step is unprecedented. In the garb of an older exercise called Intensive Revision, which was discontinued after 2003 following the computerisation of the ER, the ECI has unleashed something altogether new and disruptive.

...

The kind of proof the ECI is demanding for this exercise simply does not exist with a majority of the people. And it is not their fault. The state never supplied them the papers it demands of them today. If you ask any ordinary household for identity papers, they would offer one of the following: Aadhaar, the ECI's photo identity card, ration card or MGNREGS job card. None of these would be accepted by the ECI to enrol someone as a voter.

Shastri estimates that around 2.5 crore people (nearly one-third of the current adult population in Bihar) who are required to prove citizenship may not have any of these documents. In reality, the number could be larger

if you take routine operational failures (temporary absence, inability to do paperwork, failure to locate certificates, official goof-ups etc.) into account. Even if these are overestimates, and if the actual exclusion is around 1 crore, less than half of the robust empirical estimates, we are still looking at the largest exercise in denial of voting rights.

...

In Bihar, as in the rest of India, the burden of exclusion based on educational qualifications would fall disproportionately on women, the poor and Dalit-Adivasi and Bahujan communities. This is against the letter and spirit of the Indian Constitution."

A copy of the news report dated 02.07.2025 titled *Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls: An attack on the right to vote* published in *The Indian Express* is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE P15 (Pg 191 to 199)**.

- 31.** That the latest news report published in the Indian Express dated 04.07.2025 notes how villagers in Bihar do not possess documents being asked for by the ECI in order of voter names to appear in electoral rolls in the upcoming elections. The news report notes:

As per the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls ordered by the Election Commission ahead of the Bihar Assembly polls, residents of the state such as Manjhi whose names did not figure in the 2003 electoral rolls must provide one of 11 documents notified by the EC to prove their "citizenship". None of the three documents possessed by Manjhi, who belongs to a Scheduled Caste family, counts.

"The BLO (booth level officer) has told me that if I get a residence or caste certificate made before July 25, my (voter enrolment) form can be filled," Manjhi says.

This story plays out in village after village in the state, from Nitish's turf Harnaut in Nalanda district, to RJD chief Lalu Prasad's Raghopur in Vaishali. The Raghopur Assembly seat is currently represented by Lalu's son and

senior RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav.

In the next 20 days or so, as the monsoon moves in, over 77,000 BLOs along with other government staff and political party workers must check the antecedents of over 7.8 crore registered electors as part of the revision exercise. While a declaration that an applicant is a citizen is required for all new registrations, this time the EC is asking for citizenship proof for all new as well as existing voters.

Across villages in Bihar, this has meant both disquiet and a desperate scramble for residential and caste certificates, the most commonly available of the 11 documents specified by the EC. While district magistrates have issued instructions to expedite these certificates, many are either unaware or confused about the exercise, or are yet to be approached by the BLOs with the new electoral forms.

A copy of the news report dated 04.07.2025 titled “*In village after village in Bihar, a chorus; “We only have Aadhaar... how do we get the papers EC is asking for?”*” published in *The Indian Express* is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE P16 (Pg 200 to 204)**.

- 32.** That the decision to conduct SIR in Bihar seems to have been taken in a hurried fashion. In May 2025, ECI listed 21 initiatives to “improve voter access” and to “streamline poll management”. It is surprising that given the requirement of such drastic change in electoral rolls, the SIR of electoral rolls was not mentioned in the said 21 initiatives nor has there been a mention of any plans for such a mammoth exercise in close proximity to elections in any meeting with any of the stakeholders including in meetings held by ECI with heads of various national parties held in May-June 2025. A copy of the news report dated 29.05.2025 titled *Election Commission takes 21 initiatives in 100days to streamline poll*

management published in *The Hindu* is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE P17 (Pg 205 to 206)**.

33. In *People's Union for Civil Liberties v. Union of India*, (2013) 10

SCC 1 this Hon'ble Court observed the following:

53. *Democracy being the basic feature of our constitutional set-up, there can be no two opinions that free and fair elections would alone guarantee the growth of a healthy democracy in the country. The "fair" denotes equal opportunity to all people. Universal adult suffrage conferred on the citizens of India by the Constitution has made it possible for these millions of individual voters to go to the polls and thus participate in the governance of our country. For democracy to survive, it is essential that the best available men should be chosen as people's representatives for proper governance of the country. This can be best achieved through men of high moral and ethical values, who win the elections on a positive vote. Thus in a vibrant democracy, the voter must be given an opportunity to choose none of the above (NOTA) button, which will indeed compel the political parties to nominate a sound candidate. This situation palpably tells us the dire need of negative voting.*

56. *Free and fair election is a basic structure of the Constitution and necessarily includes within its ambit the right of an elector to cast his vote without fear of reprisal, duress or coercion.*

34. This Hon'ble Court in *Mohinder Gill vs Chief Election Commissioner* (1978) 1 SCC 405 in para 23 held as follows

"23. Democracy is government by the people. It is a continual participative operation, not a cataclysmic, periodic exercise. The little man, in his multitude, marking his vote at the poll does a social audit of his Parliament plus political choice of this proxy. Although the full flower of participative Government rarely blossoms, the minimum credential of popular Government is appeal to the people after every term for a renewal of confidence. So we have adult franchise and

general elections as constitutional compulsions. “The right of election is the very essence of the constitution” (Junius). **It needs little argument to hold that the heart of the Parliamentary system is free and fair elections periodically held, based on adult franchise, although social and economic democracy may demand much more.”**

35. This Hon’ble Court in **Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu, 1992 Supp (2) SCC 651** observed that “Democracy is a part of the basic structure of our Constitution; and rule of law, and free and fair elections are basic features of democracy”.

36. That in **Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India [Election Commission Appointments], (2023) 6 SCC** at page 345 Ajay Rastogi, J concurring with the majority observed that:

“357. Democracy is not an abstract phenomenon. It has been given effect by a range of processes. **The perception and trust in institutions are important parameters on which the working of democracy is assessed.** The success of democracy, thus, depends on the working of institutions that support the pillars of the structure of democracy.”

37. That in **Mohinder Singh Gill v. Chief Election Commissioner, (Supra)** this Hon’ble Court observed the following:

2. Every significant case has an unwritten legend and indelible lesson. This appeal is no exception, whatever its formal result. The message, as we will see at the end of the decision, relates to the pervasive philosophy of democratic elections which Sir Winston Churchill vivified in matchless, words:

“At the bottom of all tributes paid to democracy is the **little man, walking into a little booth, with a little pencil, making a little cross on a little bit of paper** — no amount of rhetoric or voluminous discussion can possibly diminish the overwhelming importance of the point.”

*If we may add, the little, **large Indian shall not be hijacked from the course of free and fair elections by mob muscle methods, or subtle perversion of discretion by men “dressed in little, brief authority”. For “be you ever so high, the law is above you”.***

38. The petitioners have not filed any other similar writ or application seeking prayers as sought for by the petitioner in the instant writ petition.

GROUND

A. BECAUSE order dated 24.06.2025 (SIR order) for Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls in Bihar and accompanying guidelines issued by the Respondent Election Commission of India are in violation of Articles 14, 19, 21, 325 and 326 of the Constitution of India as well as provisions of Representation of People’s Act, 1950 and Rule 21A of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. The SIR order if not set aside, can arbitrarily and without due process disenfranchise lakhs of citizens from electing their representatives, thereby disrupting free and fair elections and democracy in the country, which are part of basic structure of the constitution. That the documentation requirements of the directive, lack of due process as well as the unreasonably short timeline for the said SIR process is bound to result in removal of names of lakhs of genuine voters from electoral rolls leading to their disenfranchisement.

B. BECAUSE Article 326 of the Constitution guarantees universal adult suffrage to all Indian citizens above 18 years of age. The Declaration as required under the SIR process is violative of Article 326 in so far as it requires a voter to provide documents to prove his/her citizenship and also citizenships of his/her

mother or father, failing which his/her name would not be added to the draft electoral roll and can be deleted from the same.

C. BECAUSE the order dated 24.06.2025 issued by ECI has shifted the onus of being on the voters' list from the State to citizens. It has excluded identification documents such as Aadhar or ration cards which further make marginalised communities more vulnerable to exclusion from voting. The said exercise is thus similar to conduct of National Register of Citizens (NRC). That para 13 of the ECI's order categorically states that people who fail to submit fresh enumeration forms by 25.07.2025 will automatically be left out of the draft rolls. The relevant part is quoted herein below:

*13. Since the existing Electoral rolls were published on 06.01.2025 under Special Summary Revision, and continuously updated since then, the Commission further directs that a pre-filled enumeration form shall be made available to every existing elector as on the date of issue of this order and the draft roll shall include the names of all the electors who have submitted a duly filled Enumeration Form before July 25, 2025. **This being an intensive revision, in case enumeration form is not submitted before July 25, 2025, the name of the elector can not be included in the draft rolls.** However, CEO/DEO/ERO/BLO should also take care that genuine electors, particularly old, sick, PwD, poor and other vulnerable groups are not harassed and are facilitated to the extent possible, including through deployment of volunteers.*

D. BECAUSE Bihar is a state with high poverty and migration rates where many lack access to documents like birth certificates or parental records. As per estimates over 3 crore voters and more particularly from marginalized communities (such as SC, STs

and migrant workers) could be excluded from voting due to the stringent requirements as mentioned in the SIR order. That the current reports from Bihar, where SIR is already underway, show that lakhs of voters from villages and marginalized communities do not possess the documents as being sought for them.

E. BECAUSE Article 325 of the Constitution prohibits discrimination in the preparation of electoral rolls. The SIR's requirement for citizenship documentation disproportionately affects marginalized communities, including Muslims, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and migrant workers, who may lack access to such documents. Article 325 reads as under:

325. No person to be ineligible for inclusion in, or to claim to be included in a special, electoral roll on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex.—*There shall be one general electoral roll for every territorial constituency for election to either House of Parliament or to the House or either House of the Legislature of a State and no person shall be ineligible for inclusion in any such roll or claim to be included in any special electoral roll for any such constituency on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or any of them.*

F. BECAUSE the ECI's order dated 24.06.2025 violates statutory provisions of the Representation of Peoples Act 1950. Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RPA, 1950) allows the ECI to direct a special revision of electoral rolls "*for reasons to be recorded.*" The ECI's directive lacks recorded reasons supported by any evidence or transparent methodology, rendering it arbitrary and thus liable to be struck down. The requirement of citizenship documents contravenes the requirement of specific grounds for deletion of names from

electoral rolls (e.g., death, non-residence, or disqualification under Section 16 of RPA, 1950).

G. BECAUSE the process provided under the order for SIR and guidelines dated 24.06.2025 are in violation of Section 21A of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. Rule 21A of the RER, 1960 lays down the process to be followed for deletion of names from electoral roll. Rule 21A is quoted herein below:

21A. Deletion of names.—*If it appears to the registration officer at any time before the final publication of the roll that owing to inadvertence or error or otherwise, the names of dead persons or of persons who have ceased to be, or are not, ordinarily residents in the constituency or of persons who are otherwise not entitled to be registered in that roll, have been included in the roll and that remedial action should be taken under this rule, the registration officer, shall—*

(a) prepare a list of the names and other details of such electors;

(b) exhibit on the notice board of his office a copy of the list together with a notice as to the time and place at which the question of deletion of these names from the roll will be considered, and also publish the list and the notice in such other manner as he may think fit; and

(c) after considering any verbal or written objections that may be preferred, decide whether all or any of the names should be deleted from the roll:

Provided that before taking any action under this rule in respect of any person on the ground that he has ceased to be, or is not, ordinarily resident in the constituency, or is otherwise not entitled to be registered in that roll, the registration officer shall make every endeavour to give him a reasonable opportunity to show cause why the action proposed should not be taken in relation to him.

Thus, Rule 21A mandates due process to be followed before deleting any name from electoral roll. The order for SIR on the

other hand does not adequately provide for such safeguards. The requirement to submit additional documentation (e.g., proof of citizenship) for post-2003 registrants can lead to deletion without sufficient notice or opportunity to respond. Those who fail to provide the required documents within the stipulated period (e.g., due to migration or lack of access), their name would now be removed without fulfilling the procedural safeguards of Section 21A.

- H. BECAUSE** the SIR order in so far as it requires citizens to prove their citizenship virtually renders voters stateless in the eyes of the state and the ECI, which can have the effect of virtually taking away their rights as citizens.
- I. BECAUSE** the timeline provided for the SIR process does not provide voters enough time to comply with all the requirements or to challenge deletion of their names. The requirement for Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to collect pre-filled Enumeration Forms and additional documents within a short period (25.06.2025 to 26.07.2025) places an unreasonable burden on voters, particularly those who are illiterate, elderly, or disabled. The absence of a robust appeal mechanism accessible to rural and marginalized voters violates the principles of natural justice.
- J. BECAUSE** the Respondent ECI has issued unreasonable and impractical timeline to conduct SIR in Bihar with close proximity to state elections which are due in November 2025. There are lakhs of citizens (whose names did not appear in 2003 ER) who do not possess the documents as required under the SIR order, there are many who may be able to procure the documents but

the short timeline mentioned in directive may preclude them from being able to supply the same within the time period.

K. BECAUSE as per the timeline provided by the Election Commission, within a period of 30 days between June 25 – July 25, 1 lakh BLOs are to be trained (with 20,000 yet to be appointed) for SIR, connect them with lakhs of booth level agents of all political parties, educate the public about this exercise, distribute enumeration forms to each household through a House to House exercise, and help them with a copy of 2003 electoral roll, collect the completed form from each household (with 3 visits if required), upload these to the internet, verify the certificates and documents and give their recommendations. That after publication of draft electoral roll on 01.08.2025, one week time has been allotted by ECI for filing of claims and objections and by 25.09.2025 decision on crores of enumeration forms has to be completed and all claims and objections received have to be disposed of by EROs. The same seems to be an impossible task, which can only be accomplished without due process at the cost of disenfranchisement of lakhs of voters.

L. BECAUSE the last SIR exercise in Bihar was conducted two years before the Legislative Assembly elections were due in 2005. In the instant case, SIR of electoral rolls is being conducted in very close proximity to Legislative Assembly elections in Bihar (due in November 2022), making it an impossible task, which will lead to violation of right to vote for lakhs of citizens who would have otherwise been able to vote.

M. BECAUSE since 2003, five general elections and five assembly elections have taken place in Bihar with continuous addition

and deletion of names in Bihar's electoral roll. While SIR of Bihar or any other state of country is a positive step, but the manner in which ECI has directed the conduct of SIR in a poll bound state like Bihar, has raised questions from all stakeholders, particularly the voters. Moreover, Special Summary Revision (SSR) was already conducted between October 29, 2024 and January 6, 2025 which addressed issues such as migration and ineligible voters due to death or other reasons.

N. BECAUSE in May 2025, ECI listed 21 initiatives to "improve voter access" and to "streamline poll management". It is surprising that given the requirement of such drastic change in electoral rolls, the SIR of electoral rolls was never mentioned in the said 21 initiatives nor has there been a mention of any plans for such a mammoth exercise in close proximity to elections in Bihar in any meeting with any of the stakeholders including in meetings held by ECI with heads of various national parties held in May-June 2025.

O. BECAUSE a Constitution Bench of this Hon'ble Court in **Anoop Baranwal (2023 6 SCC 161) [Election Commission Appointments]**, held that Election Commission should be fearlessly and robustly independent and such independence would be undermined if the selection process is conducted by an executive which has a critical stake in the electoral process. It thus directed that the appointment to the posts of the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioners shall be done by the President of India on the basis of the advice tendered by a Committee consisting of the Prime Minister of India, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and, in case, there is no such Leader, the Leader of the largest party in

the Opposition in the Lok Sabha having the largest numerical strength, and the Chief Justice of India. However, soon after the judgment, the Parliament passed a legislation i.e. The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023 in violation of the directions passed in **Anoop Baranwal** (supra) by providing for a Selection Committee dominated by executive. That the challenge to the same is currently pending before this Hon'ble Court as WPC No. 87 of 2024. Thus, under the present dispensation the CEC and the ECs are being selected by the political executive and thus effectively the ruling party has a clear say in the selection of the CEC and ECs. Therefore, the decisions taken by the ECI and their implementation process have to be carefully scrutinized to ensure that democracy, universal adult suffrage, level playing field are not disrupted by such decisions in any manner.

U. BECAUSE this Hon'ble Court in **Lal Babu Hussein and others v. Electoral Registration Officer (1995) 3 SCC 100** has dealt with the similar issue in the context of publication of the electoral rolls wherein the issue of citizenship was squarely in question. The relevant para is quoted herein below:

13. Having taken the guidelines suggested by either side into consideration and having heard counsel, we proceed to dispose of all the three matters by giving the following directions:

.....

4. The Officer holding the enquiry shall bear in mind that the enquiry being of quasi-judicial nature, he

must entertain all such evidence, documentary or otherwise, the affected person concerned may like to tender in evidence and disclose all such material on which he proposes to place reliance, so that the person concerned has had a reasonable opportunity of rebutting such evidence. The person concerned, it must always be remembered, must have a reasonable opportunity of being heard;

5. *Needless to state that the Officer inquiring into the matter must apply his mind independently to the material placed before him and without being influenced by extraneous considerations or instructions;*

6. *Before taking a final decision in the matter, the Officer concerned will bear in mind the provisions of the Constitution and the Citizenship Act extracted hereinbefore and all related provisions bearing on the question of citizenship and then pass an appropriate speaking order (since an appeal is provided);*

7. *The directive issued by the Election Commission on 9-9-1994 prohibiting the Officer from entertaining certain documents will stand quashed and the documents will be received, if tendered, and its evidentiary value assessed and applied in decision-making;*

8. *These guidelines not being exhaustive, the Officer concerned must, where special situations arise, conduct themselves fairly and in a manner consistent with the principles of natural justice and should not appear to be acting on any preconceived notions; and;*

V. BECAUSE this Hon'ble Court in **Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India** (supra), held:

216. *There can be no doubt that the strength of a democracy and its credibility, and therefore, its*

enduring nature must depend upon the means employed to gain power being as fair as the conduct of the Government after the assumption of power by it. The assumption of power itself through the electoral process in the democracy cannot and should not be perceived as an end. The end at any rate cannot justify the means. The means to gain power in a democracy must remain wholly pure and abide by the Constitution and the laws. An unrelenting abuse of the electoral process over a period of time is the surest way to the grave of the democracy. **Democracy can succeed only insofar as all stakeholders uncompromisingly work at it and the most important aspect of democracy is the very process, the electoral process, the purity of which alone will truly reflect the will of the people so that the fruits of democracy are truly reaped.**

357. Democracy is not an abstract phenomenon. It has been given effect by a range of processes. **The perception and trust in institutions are important parameters on which the working of democracy is assessed.** The success of democracy, thus, depends on the working of institutions that support the pillars of the structure of democracy.

W. That in the above judgment Justice Rastogi in his separate opinion held:

401. **The right to take part in the conduct of public affairs as a voter is the core of the democratic form of Government, which is a basic feature of the Constitution.** The right to vote is an expression of the choice of the citizen, which is a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(a). The right to vote is a part of a citizen's life as it is their indispensable tool to shape their own destinies by choosing the Government they want. In that sense, it is a reflection of Article 21. In history, the right to vote was denied to women and those were socially oppressed. Our Constitution took a visionary step by

extending franchise to everyone. In that way, the right to vote enshrines the protection guaranteed under Articles 15 and 17. Therefore, the right to vote is not limited only to Article 326, but flows through Articles 15, 17, 19 and 21. Article 326 has to be read along with these provisions. We therefore declare the right to vote in direct elections as a fundamental right, subject to limitations laid down in Article 326.'

402. *Now that we have held that the right to vote is not merely a constitutional right, but a component of Part III of the Constitution as well, it raises the level of scrutiny on the working of the Election Commission of India, which is responsible for conducting free and fair elections. As it is a question of constitutional as well as fundamental rights, this Court needs to ensure that the working of the Election Commission under Article 324 facilitates the protection of people's voting rights. [Emphasis supplied]*

X. BECAUSE this Hon'ble Court in **People's Union of Civil Liberties vs Union of India & Anr** reported as **(2003) 4 SCC 399**, held that the casting of vote is the accomplishment of freedom of expression of the voter:

123. Finally, the summary of my conclusion:

(1) ...

*(2) The right to vote at the elections to the House of people or Legislative Assembly is a constitutional right but not merely a statutory right; freedom of voting as distinct from right to vote is a facet of the fundamental right enshrined in Article 19(1)(a). **The casting of vote in favour of one or the other candidate marks the accomplishment of freedom of expression of the voter.**"[Emphasis supplied]*

...

P. BECAUSE this Hon'ble Court in **Mohinder Gill vs Chief Election Commissioner (1978) 1 SCC 405** free and fair

elections based on adult franchise is at the heart of Parliamentary system:

23. *Democracy is government by the people. It is a continual participative operation, not a cataclysmic, periodic exercise. The little man, in his multitude, marking his vote at the poll does a social audit of his Parliament plus political choice of this proxy. Although the full flower of participative Government rarely blossoms, the minimum credential of popular Government is appeal to the people after every term for a renewal of confidence. So we have adult franchise and general elections as constitutional compulsions. "The right of election is the very essence of the constitution" (Junius). **It needs little argument to hold that the heart of the Parliamentary system is free and fair elections periodically held, based on adult franchise, although social and economic democracy may demand much more.**" [Emphasis supplied]*

Q. BECAUSE in *People's Union for Civil Liberties v. Union of India*, ((2013) 10 SCC 1) [NOTA case] this Hon'ble Court observed the following:

53. *Democracy being the basic feature of our constitutional set-up, there can be no two opinions that free and fair elections would alone guarantee the growth of a healthy democracy in the country. The "fair" denotes equal opportunity to all people. Universal adult suffrage conferred on the citizens of India by the Constitution has made it possible for these millions of individual voters to go to the polls and thus participate in the governance of our country. For democracy to survive, it is essential that the best available men should be chosen as people's representatives for proper governance of the country. This can be best achieved through men of high moral and ethical values, who win the elections on a positive vote. Thus in a vibrant democracy, the voter must be given an opportunity to choose none of the above (NOTA) button, which will indeed compel the political parties to nominate a sound candidate. This situation palpably tells us the dire need of negative voting.*

56. Free and fair election is a basic structure of the Constitution and necessarily includes within its ambit the right of an elector to cast his vote without fear of reprisal, duress or coercion.

P. BECAUSE free and fair elections are part of basic structure of the constitution. This Hon'ble Court in **Kuldeep Kumar v. State (UT of Chandigarh), (2024) 3 SCC 526**, that:

"36. This Court has consistently held that free and fair elections are a part of the basic structure of the Constitution. [Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu, 1992 Supp (2) SCC 651 : AIR 1993 SC 412; Indira Nehru Gandhi v. Raj Narain, 1975 Supp SCC 1] Elections at the local participatory level act as a microcosm of the larger democratic structure in the country. Local governments, such as municipal corporations, engage with issues that affect citizens' daily lives and act as a primary point of contact with representative democracy. The process of citizens electing councillors, who in turn, elect the Mayor, serves as a channel for ordinary citizens to ventilate their grievances through their representatives — both directly and indirectly elected. Ensuring a free and fair electoral process throughout this process, therefore, is imperative to maintain the legitimacy of and trust in representative democracy."

Q. BECAUSE in **Mohinder Singh Gill v. Chief Election Commissioner** (supra) this Hon'ble Court also observed:

2. Every significant case has an unwritten legend and indelible lesson. This appeal is no exception, whatever its formal result. The message, as we will see at the end of the decision, relates to the pervasive philosophy of democratic elections which Sir Winston Churchill vivified in matchless, words:

"At the bottom of all tributes paid to democracy is the little man, walking into a little booth, with a little pencil, making a little cross on a little bit of paper — no amount of rhetoric or voluminous discussion can

possibly diminish the overwhelming importance of the point.” If we may add, the little, large Indian shall not be hijacked from the course of free and fair elections by mob muscle methods, or subtle perversion of discretion by men “dressed in little, brief authority”. For “be you ever so high, the law is above you”.

PRAYER

In view of the facts and circumstances stated hereinabove, it is respectfully prayed that this Hon’ble Court may graciously be pleased to:

- a) Issue a writ, order or direction setting aside Order and Communication dated 24.06.2025 and accompanying guidelines issued by Election Commission of India to conduct Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar as being in violation of Articles 14, 19, 21, 325, 326 of the Constitution of India and provisions of Representation of People Act, 1950 and Registration of Electors Rules, 1960;
- b) Pass such other order as this Hon’ble Court may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the instant case.

AND FOR THIS ACT OF KINDNESS THE PETITIONER AS IN DUTY BOUND SHALL EVER PRAY.

Prashant Bhushan

PRASHANT BHUSHAN
(COUNSEL FOR THE PETITIONER)

Drafted by: Neha Rathi and Kajal Giri
Dated: 04.07.2025
Place: New Delhi

IN THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION
WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. _____ OF 2025
(PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION)

IN THE MATTER OF:

ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORMS & ORS.

...PETITIONERS

VERSUS

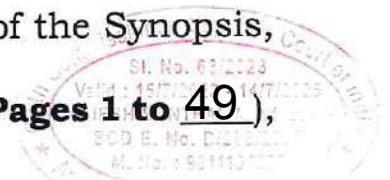
ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

....RESPONDENT

AFFIDAVIT

I, Mr. Jagdeep S. Chhokar, Founder Trustee of the Petitioner, R/o T-95, 2nd Floor, CL House, Gautam Nagar, New Delhi, do hereby affirm and state as under:

1. That I am Petitioner No.1 in the accompanying Writ Petition and being well conversant with the facts and records and records of the case. That I have been authorised by other Petitioners to swear on their behalf.
2. That I have read and understood the contents of the Synopsis, and list of dates (**Pages B to O**), Writ Petition (**Pages 1 to 49**), IA's and the contents of the same are true and correct to my knowledge, based on documentary evidence and records of the case, and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.
3. I further state that all the Annexures to this Writ Petition are true copies of their respective originals.



4. The source of information is official documents, court records, and information available in the public domain.
5. That this petition is only motivated by Public Interest. I affirm that I have no personal interest in this matter.
6. That I have done whatsoever inquiry was possible and I state that no material or relevant facts in my knowledge have been withheld.



[Signature]

DEPONENT

I, the above named Deponent, do hereby verify that the contents of the above Affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge; that no part of it is false and that nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Verified at New Delhi on this 2nd day of July, 2025.



[Signature]

DEPONENT

I identify the deponent who has Signed / Put T.I. in my presence

C. No. 6180



ATTESTED
[Signature]
RAJESH SONTALIA, Advocate
OATH COMMISSIONER
SL. NO. 63/2023
SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

02/7/25

02/7/25

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

No. 23/ERS/2025

Dated: 24th June, 2025

ORDER

Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls

1. Whereas, Article 324 of the Constitution of India and the Representation of People Act, 1950 (the "RPA 1950") vests the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of the elections to the Parliament and the State Legislatures, with the Election Commission;
2. Whereas, maintaining the integrity of the electoral roll is fundamental for the conduct of free and fair elections;
3. Whereas, the electoral machinery, eligibility conditions, manner and procedure for preparation of electoral rolls are provided under the RPA 1950 and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 ("RER, 1960"), framed under the RPA 1950;
4. Whereas, in line with this objective, the Commission has previously exercised its powers under enabling statutes in the years such as 1952-56, 1957, 1961, 1965, 1966, 1983-84, 1987-89, 1992, 1993, 1995, 2002, 2003 and 2004 to undertake Intensive Revision of electoral rolls for all or some parts of the country for afresh preparation of electoral rolls through enumeration. The last intensive revision in Bihar, was conducted by the Commission in the year 2003 with reference to 01.01.2003 as the qualifying date;
5. Whereas, the preparation of electoral roll must ensure that all eligible citizens are included and no such eligible citizen is excluded from the electoral roll;
6. Whereas, the Article 326 of the Constitution stipulates that every person who is a citizen of India and who is not less than eighteen years of age on the qualifying date and is not otherwise disqualified under any law shall be entitled to be registered in the electoral roll;
7. Whereas, the Commission has noted that during the last 20 years significant change in electoral roll has taken place due to additions and deletions on a large scale over this long period. Rapid urbanization and frequent migration of population from one place to another on account of

education, livelihood and other reasons, have become a regular trend. Some electors obtain registration in one place and then shift their residence and register themselves at another place without getting their names deleted from the electoral roll of the initial place of residence. This has led to increased possibility of repeated entries in the electoral roll. Thus, the situation warrants an intensive verification drive to verify each person before enrolment as an Elector;

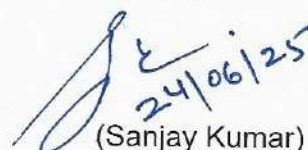
8. Whereas, one of the fundamental pre-conditions set out in Article 326 of the Constitution is that a person is required to be an Indian citizen, for his/her name to be registered in the electoral roll. Consequently, the Commission has a constitutional obligation to ensure that only persons who are citizens;
9. Whereas, under Section 21 of the RPA 1950 along with other applicable provisions of the RPA 1950, the Commission is empowered to direct special intensive revision of the electoral rolls including preparation of electoral rolls afresh;
10. Therefore, the Commission has now decided to begin the Special Intensive Revision in the entire country for the discharge of its constitutional mandate to protect the integrity of the electoral rolls; However, since the General Elections to the Legislative Assembly in the State of Bihar is expected in later part of this year, hence the Commission has decided to conduct Special Intensive Revision in the State of Bihar as per the Guidelines and schedule attached herewith. The schedule for the Special Intensive Revision in the rest of the country shall be issued separately in due course.
11. Since the last intensive revision in Bihar was undertaken in 2003, the EROs shall treat the electoral roll of 2003 with qualifying date of 01.01.2003 as probative evidence of eligibility, including presumption of citizenship unless they receive any other input otherwise.
12. Any person whose name is not recorded in the 2003 Electoral Roll shall for the purpose of registration in the electoral roll is required to submit from amongst a wide range of eligible government documents as prescribed for establishing their eligibility to be an elector.
13. Since the existing Electoral rolls were published on 06.01.2025 under Special Summary Revision, and continuously updated since then, the Commission further directs that a pre-filled enumeration form shall be made available to every existing elector as on the date of issue of this order and the draft roll shall include the names of all the electors who have submitted a duly filled Enumeration Form before July 25, 2025. This being an intensive revision, in case enumeration form is not submitted

before July 25, 2025, the name of the elector can not be included in the draft rolls. However, CEO/DEO/ERO/BLO should also take care that genuine electors, particularly old, sick, PwD, poor and other vulnerable groups are not harassed and are facilitated to the extent possible, including through deployment of volunteers.

14. The ERO/AERO shall not delete any entry from the draft roll without conducting an inquiry and giving a fair and reasonable opportunity to the persons concerned whose name has appeared in the draft roll. In case any person is aggrieved by the decision of the ERO, he may prefer an appeal to the District Magistrate under Section 24(a) of the RP Act, 1950, read with rule 27 of the RER, 1960 within the stipulated time. If the appellant remains unsatisfied, a second appeal may be preferred before the Chief Electoral Officer within 30 days of the DM's order, as per Section 24(b) of the RP Act, 1950 read with Rule 27 of the RER, 1960.
15. Further, in case of application for registration as a new elector or for shifting from outside the state of Bihar, it is also directed that henceforth, alongwith Form 6/Form 8, an additional Declaration Form (**Annexure D**) shall also be required to be filled by the applicant to support the declaration made therein.

By Order

Election Commission of India


(Sanjay Kumar)

Deputy Election Commissioner

Annexure B

Detailed Guidelines For Special Intensive Revision**1. Training**

- a. DG(IT), ECI shall organise a training of the CEO and State IT Nodal Officers at the CEO office to familiarize them about new IT features/modules/applications/online submission of forms.
- b. CEO/DEO/ERO/AERO shall get themselves acquainted with the new ECINet application, and especially about the BLO, Elector and their respective modules.
- c. CEO shall also ensure that all the posts of EROs/AEROs/BLOs/Supervisors are filled and requisite training and orientation including training on the latest IT process and systems is completed well in time.
- d. At the earliest, ERO will conduct an orientation workshop for the Booth Level Agents (BLA) of recognized political parties to explain the process and to sensitize them about SIR.

2. Rationalization, Reserialization and Formation of sections

- a. Based on the H2H enumeration, ERO shall assess the need of new Polling Stations considering that no Polling station has more than 1,200 electors, except with the prior approval of the Commission. ERO to also ensure that the polling station area is so defined and demarcated that no overlap exists with any other Polling station.
- b. The electors of so merged/attached polling stations are not required to travel for more than two kilometer distance and to cross any natural barriers.
- c. Extensive survey must be carried out during the exercise of rationalization of polling stations for setting up new polling stations in the High Rise/Group Housing societies/RWA colonies that have common facilitation area/community halls at ground floor within the premises and in slum dwelling clusters of urban areas.
- d. Immediately after assessing the requirement of new polling stations, ERO shall communicate the requirement of additional polling stations to DEO.
- e. DEO, being responsible for provisioning of polling stations u/s 25 of the RP Act 1951, shall ensure 100% physical verification of the existing and newly proposed polling station locations through a senior officer to assess as to whether the building is in proper condition and it meets the other parameters set by the Commission for smooth conduct of poll.
- f. DEO shall consult the representatives of the political parties before finalizing the proposal of new polling stations. Thereafter,

DEO shall obtain the approval of the Commission for the consolidated proposal of polling stations.

- g. Proposal for change of location shall be sent to the Commission only after 100% verification/inspection of the polling station and along with longitude and latitude. Latitude and Longitude of all Polling Stations, newly identified and proposed for creation/change of location of polling station shall be captured and details of the same shall be updated in the ECINet Dashboard.
- h. After Commission's approval, ERO shall update the Control Table in ECINet and create Parts, as per IT applications to prepare draft Electoral Roll.
- i. Once a new polling station is created in the Electoral Roll, ERO shall also, through BLO, ensure uploading of photos and location information of the polling station, along with data like latitude and longitude of the Polling Station, from BLO's module in ECINet App.
- j. **Standardization of addresses:** The electors will be arranged in the roll in a sequence, according to the House no. (and Floor no. of the building). To standardize the address of electors the following fields of addresses shall be maintained while preparing the roll:¹
 - i. House No./ Flat No./Door No. (Name of house, if available)
 - ii. Floor No. (in case of multi-story building)
 - iii. Building No./Block No./Tower No. (name of building, if available)
 - iv. Apartment No.
 - v. Wing
 - vi. Ward No*
 - vii. Street/ Road/Lane*
 - viii. Sector
 - ix. Area/Locality*
 - x. Landmark, if any
 - xi. Village/Town/City*
 - xii. Sub-district/Tehsil
 - xiii. District*
 - xiv. State*
 - xv. Pincode*

k. Family Grouping:

¹ The fields marked with (*) should be mandatorily mentioned in the electors' details, while the remaining fields may be taken as optional fields and be included wherever necessary (like in urban areas). The CEO/DEO may include the other fields in the mandatory category as prevalent in the State/District. Where no House no. as given by the Panchayat/Municipal Authorities is available, the notional number will be given in the roll. In such cases, it will be invariably indicated that the House no. is notional. The mandatory address fields will be mentioned in the electoral roll and the same will be reflected as it is in the EPIC of the elector.

- i. Based on the H2H enumeration, while creating a new polling station or re-organizing/rationalisation of the existing polling stations by creating/merging/ attaching sections to the adjacent polling stations, ERO to ensure the following:
 1. No family residing at same Door/Flat No. is broken and all the family members are kept in the same section and in the same part,
 2. Electors residing in a building are enrolled in the same part, and
 3. As far as possible electors residing in a Street are enrolled in the same part.
- ii. To group all the family members and neighbors in a section, ERO shall keep all Electors of one house/building/tower, in one Section, as far as feasible, in any case within a part.

3. House to House (H2H) Enumeration

- a. At the start of the H2H process, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) shall be provided with:
 - i. an Identity Card, if not already given, and
 - ii. a kit bag labeled **Special Intensive Revision**, that shall include registers, stationery, caps/T-shirts, and any other necessary stationery items required during the enumeration process.
 - iii. Enumeration Forms (**Annexure C**) with pre printed details of existing electors, for each existing elector as on the date of issue of this order, in duplicate. Alongwith certain number of blank Enumeration Forms for any eventuality.
- b. BLOs shall visit each household and distribute Enumeration Form, with pre printed details of existing electors, to each existing elector in duplicate and will guide them in filling up the Form.
- c. If BLO finds that any house is locked or closed at the time of enumeration, she/he shall slip the Enumeration Forms in the house and make at least three visits to collect filled up Forms.
- d. The existing electors will also be provided a facility to download pre-filled Enumeration Form and upload filled-in Forms and documents through online mode.
- e. Each elector must submit this form along with requisite information and self-attested documents to the BLO.
- f. BLO will again visit every household to collect the filled copy of the Enumeration Form from the electors. BLO shall keep one copy of Enumeration Form along with the requisite documents with him/her and give an acknowledgement of receipt of Form and document on the other copy of Enumeration Form to be retained by the applicant.

- g. In case an elector has uploaded a form filled in with documents online, BLO will verify the documents during his visit to the house of the elector.
- h. BLO shall upload these Forms and attached documents through BLO/ECINet mobile application. Thereafter, BLO will submit all the collected Enumeration Forms along with its documents to the concerned ERO/AERO for record purposes.

4. Publication of draft roll :

- a. ERO shall prepare the draft Electoral Roll by including all the Electors whose Enumeration Forms have been received from the electors. Decision on the Enumeration Forms so received shall be taken after draft publication during the claims & objection period. However, ERO/AERO shall start scrutinising Enumeration Forms, as and when they are received to identify the cases with suspected eligibility.
- b. Draft electoral roll shall consist of names of all the existing electors who have submitted their duly filled Enumeration Form to the BLO during the H2H enumeration period or which have been received online and verified by BLO. Names of other electors, from whom Enumeration Forms are not received will not be included in the draft roll.
- c. In case any elector is unable to submit their filled in enumeration forms within the specified time, they may file Form 6 alongwith the prescribed Declaration Form (Annexure D) for inclusion during the claims and objections period.
- d. All names of member of judiciary, public representatives, holders of declared offices and personalities from fields of arts, culture, journalism, sports, and public services etc. earlier flagged in the electoral database, are to be included in the draft Electoral Rolls, so that necessary documents can also be collected during the period of Claims and Objections.
- e. ERO shall also invite advance application for subsequent qualifying date i.e. 01st October, 2025 while publishing notice for draft publication in Form-5.

5. Period of Claims and Objections

- a. After publication of the draft Electoral Rolls, ERO/AERO shall scrutinise the eligibility of proposed Electors in accordance with the qualification of Electors prescribed under Article 326 and Section 16 & 19 of RPA 1950. To do so, ERO/AERO shall come to his/her satisfaction based on the documents submitted and field reports.
- b. In case ERO/AERO doubts the eligibility of the proposed Elector (due to non-submission of requisite documents or otherwise), he/she will start a suo moto inquiry and issue notice to such proposed Elector, as to why his/her should not be deleted. Based

on field inquiry, documentation or otherwise, ERO/AERO shall decide on inclusion of such proposed Electors in the Final Rolls. In each such case, ERO/AERO shall pass a speaking order. Also, EROs will refer cases of suspected foreign nationals to the competent authority under the Citizenship Act, 1955. For these purposes, AERO shall exercise ERO's powers independently u/s 13C(2) of the RPA, 1950.

- c. Whereas, the eligibility conditions to enroll as an elector were already being verified by the ERO to his satisfaction, it is necessary that the documents on the basis of which such satisfaction of ERO is arrived at, are also uploaded in ECINET as the current level of technology enables so.
- d. Every claim for inclusion of name in the roll as new elector shall be in Form-6 along with new Declaration Form. Henceforth, all EROs shall also ensure to collect the prescribed Declaration Form in respect of all pending Form 6 and advance claims received in Form 6 w.r.t. 01.10.2025 as the qualifying date.
- e. Application for shifting of residence within the constituency or outside the constituency, correction or updation of entries, replacement of EPIC and marking of PwD, shall be in Form-8 and shall be preferred by the person to whom that entry relates. New Declaration Form shall be submitted alongwith Form-8 for shifting of residence from outside the state of Bihar.

6. Display of list of claims and objections

- a. ERO shall prepare lists of claims and objections in Form 9, 10, 11 and 11A and 11B and exhibit one copy of such lists on a notice board in his office on every working day.
- b. The list of all claims and objections received should also be put up on the website of the CEO so that citizens are able to see the list and lodge objections, if any, with the concerned ERO.
- c. CEO to give adequate publicity to the fact that a list of claims and objections is available on CEO's website, and if any one wants to raise objections regarding any claim in the list, he/she can file the same before the EROs. This information should also be shared with the political parties by holding meetings with them and sending written communication to them.
- d. ERO to share the list of claims and objections with the political parties on a weekly basis. The list should be incremental instead of cumulative. For this purpose, the ERO should call a meeting of all political parties on a regular interval and personally handover a list of claims and objections to them and obtain acknowledgement.

7. Appeals under Section 24 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950: An appeal shall lie from any decision of the ERO to the District Magistrate u/s 24(a) of the RP Act, 1950, and a second appeal under

Section 24(b) against the decision of the first Appellate authority shall lie to the CEO, in the manner prescribed under Rule 27 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

8. Supervision and Checks: Following supervisory checks and verification are prescribed.

- a. BLO Supervisor, who normally has 10 BLOs under his charge shall verify 10% of each of the Booth Level Officer's verification work under him.
- b. ERO shall hold regular monitoring meetings with AEROs, BLO Supervisors and BLOs and ensure that the work done is not superficial. Delinquent officials should be taken to task and corrective measures taken swiftly.
- c. **Super-checking during SIR by Roll Observers:** Verification of 250 Forms (100 additions + 100 deletions + 50 modifications) in the assigned districts or at least 50 Forms (20 additions + 20 deletions + 10 modifications) in each of the assigned districts, by tabletop exercise. Out of these verified Forms, field verification must be done in a minimum of 50 Forms.

9. Engagement with Political Parties and sharing of electoral rolls:

- a. By CEO:
 - i. As soon as the SIR schedule is announced, the CEO shall hold a meeting with all recognized political parties, and inform them of the important points of the law and procedures of the SIR and seek their cooperation.
 - ii. For all such meetings, records like minutes of meetings attendance of participants with their signature should be maintained.
 - iii. The CEO shall ask the recognized political parties to appoint a Booth Level Agent (BLA) for each polling station who would be associated with BLO during the revision period. Political Parties shall also be asked to give a list of BLAs to respective EROs.
 - iv. The CEO shall extract a report on the status of disposal of claims and objections received during the revision from ECINet and put the same on his website on a weekly basis, for information of general public/citizens.
 - v. Computerization and posting of all application forms received in Forms 6, 6A, 7, 8 on the website of the CEO on a day to day basis.
 - vi. CEO shall put draft electoral roll, final electoral roll, list of claims and objections on CEOs' website and share the same with recognized political parties.
 - vii. CEO shall get the revision schedule properly disseminated to media, political parties and social organizations/RWAs

and reach out to electors/eligible population extensively well before the date of draft publication of electoral rolls.

b. By DEO:

- i. DEO shall get the revision schedule properly disseminated to media, political parties and social organizations/RWAs and reach out to electors/eligible population extensively well before the date of draft publication of electoral rolls.
- ii. The DEO shall hold periodic meetings with all recognized national and state level political parties and inform them of the important points of the law and procedures of the SIR and seek their cooperation before the date of draft publication.

c. By ERO:

- i. ERO shall share a list of claims and objections with all political parties on a weekly basis. He will be able to download this list through ECINet.
- ii. ERO, immediately after draft and final publication, shall supply free of cost two copies (one hard copy & one soft copy) of each separate part of the roll to every registered political party. For this purpose, soft copy of electoral roll shall not have the electors' photographs.

d. By BLO:

- i. Before H2H enumeration, BLO will hold a meeting with BLAs and brief them about the schedule and process of SIR.
- ii. The BLOs will go through the draft electoral roll with BLAs of recognized political parties of the State and identify the corrections to be carried out, etc. It is pertinent to mention that BLAs once appointed from a recognized political party will continue as BLA, unless their appointment is rescinded /revoked by the political party concerned.
- iii. With a view to ensure more involvement of political parties, the Commission has allowed BLAs of recognized political parties to file applications in bulk, subject to the condition that a BLA shall not submit more than 50 Forms/day to BLO before the Draft Publication, and 10 Forms/day thereafter.
- iv. BLA will submit a list of application forms with an undertaking that he has personally verified the particulars of the application forms and is satisfied that they are correct.

10. Schedule of Press Note/Advertisement during SIR

a. Announcement of schedule of SIR:

- i. **Press Note:** CEO to issue a Press Note explaining pre-revision activities like, H2H, rationalization and

- schedule in detail along with expected meetings with political parties. DEO to circulate CEO's press notes on its social media.
- ii. **Advertisement:** CEO to publish SIR schedule in the prominent newspapers, along with a public appeal to file claims and objections.
 - iii. **Letter:** CEO/DEO/ERO to write to recognized political parties sharing the schedule and guidelines of SIR.
- b. Rationalisation of PS:
- i. **Press Note:** DEOs to issue a press note with photos of meetings with political parties discussing the draft list of Polling Station. CEO to issue a consolidated press note after Commission's approval of final list of PS.
- c. Publication of draft roll
- i. **Press Note:** CEO/DEOs to issue separate press notes on the day of draft publication with details of the electors, period of claims & objections, sharing of lists of claims & objections on weekly basis, information about the provision of appeal and details of appellate officers. Press Note shall have photos with the authorised representatives of the political parties while handing over the copies of draft roll to them.
 - ii. **Advertisement:** CEO to make an appeal for people to file claims and objections on the draft Electoral Roll.
- d. Period of Claims and Objections
- i. **Press Note:** Each DEO will issue a press note, during the period, while sharing the photos of ERO handing over the weekly list of claims and objections to political parties.
- e. Final Roll Publication
- i. **Press Note:** CEO/ DEOs will issue a Press Note on the day of final publication with electors details, and photos of ERO handing over the final roll to the political parties. The note shall also inform public and political parties about the process of appeal
 - ii. **Advertisement:** CEO to inform the public about the final publication and summary of electors details and informing the public about the process of appeal.

11. Preparation of Electoral roll at the time of Final Publication

- a. ERO will ensure that the Final roll is a single updated roll (draft roll plus supplements prepared during SIR), in which all the additions made during SIR period will come with Sl. No. in continuation after the last entry of the draft roll and all the modifications and deletions carried out during SIR shall be

reflected in the updated roll against SI. No. of such modified and deleted entries.²

- b. This final roll shall be shared with recognized political parties and uploaded on the website.
- c. No separate addition, deletion and modification lists will be printed and given to the political parties, though the EROs will generate these lists from ECINet and keep them only for future reference.
- d. In cases where ERO/AERO, on having scrutinised the eligibility based on suo moto inquiry and after giving due opportunity of being heard, has found the proposed Elector in draft Electoral Roll as ineligible to be enrolled as an Elector, ERO/AERO shall ensure that such cases are not included in the Final Electoral Rolls. Such Electors shall have a right to file Appeal to the District Magistrate.

12. Preparation of electoral roll during elections

- a. During elections, at the time of preparation of electoral roll on the last date of filing of nominations, to be given to the candidates of recognized political parties and for preparation of marked copy/working copy:
 - i. ERO will ensure that the electoral roll is a single updated one and without re-serialization of entries. The deleted entries will not be removed.
 - ii. All the additions made during continuous updation from the last final publication date till the last date of making nominations (during election), will be put in chronological order giving continuous SI. No. starting with next SI. No. of last entry in final roll. All deletions & modifications will be marked in the last final roll as per Commission's existing instructions.
- b. There is a complete restriction on deletion of names & corrections in particulars of electors after 10th day of the announcement of election programme, therefore all Form-7 and Form-8 (other than shifting) received after the announcement of election shall be disposed of after the election is over. For applications received in Form-8 for shifting of residence, addition shall continue till the last date of making nominations while simultaneous deletion of such entry at old place shall be done by the ERO after the election is over. Such names shall be kept in the ASD list at the previous place of enrolment.

² Commission's Instruction No. 23/INST/2023-ERS dated 16.03.2023

Annexure C

Enumeration Form

Elector's Name, EPIC, Address (Pre-printed).

Serial No, Part No. & name, AC/PC Name, State (Pre-printed).

Old Photo (Pre-printed)	Paste Current Photo
----------------------------	------------------------

Date of Birth	AADHAAR No. (Optional)	Mobile No.

Father's/Legal Guardian Name	EPIC No. (if available)

Mother's Name	EPIC No. (if available)

Spouse's Name (if applicable)	EPIC No. (if available)

DECLARATION

I HEREBY DECLARE that to the best of my knowledge and belief-

(i) I am **above 18** years of age, ordinary resident on the above address and a citizen of India, and **(tick any one)**

- ☐ I was born in India before 01.07.1987
- Provide any document, for Self, from the list given below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.
- ☐ I was born in India between 01.07.1987 and 02.12.2004
- Provide any document, for Self, from the list given below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.
 - Provide any document, for Father or Mother, from the list given below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.
- ☐ I was born in India after 02.12.2004

- Provide any document, for Self, from the list given below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.
- Provide any document, for Father, from the list given below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.
- Provide any document, for Mother, from the list given below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.
- If any parent is not Indian, provide a copy of his/her valid passport & visa at the time of your birth.

- ☐ I was born outside of India (attach proof of Birth Registration issued by Indian Mission abroad),
- ☐ I have acquired Indian citizenship by Registration/Naturalisation (attach Certificate of Registration of Citizenship)

(ii) I have not acquired the citizenship of any other country.

(iii) I am applying for inclusion in the Electoral Roll and my name is not included in any other Assembly Constituency/ Parliamentary Constituency.

(iv) I am aware that making the above statement or declaration in relation to this application which is false and which I know or believe to be false or do not believe to be true, is punishable under Section 31 of Representation of the People Act, 1950 (43 of 1950) with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine or with both.

Date: _____ Place: _____ Signature/Left Thumb Impression

Indicative (not exhaustive) list of documents to be submitted in support of the declaration (separate self attested documents to be submitted for Self, Father and Mother, if mentioned above, except where extract of the Electoral Roll of Bihar with qualifying date 01.01.2003 is used, which will be considered as a sufficient document in itself):

1. Any Identity card/Pension Payment Order issued to regular employee/pensioner of any Central Govt./State Govt./PSU.
2. Any Identity Card/Certificate/Document issued in India by Government/ local authorities/Banks/Post Office/LIC/PSUs prior to 01.07.1987.
3. Birth Certificate issued by the competent authority.
4. Passport
5. Matriculation/Educational certificate issued by recognised Boards/universities
6. Permanent Residence certificate issued by competent State authority
7. Forest Right Certificate
8. OBC/SC/ST or any caste certificate issued by the Competent authority
9. National Register of Citizens (wherever it exists)
10. Family Register, prepared by State/Local authorities.
11. Any land/house allotment certificate by Government

Annexure D

Declaration Form

(To be submitted alongwith Form 6/8 for enrolment as a new Elector/shifting from outside the state)

I HEREBY DECLARE that to the best of my knowledge and belief-

(i) I am above 18 years of age, ordinary resident on the above address, and citizen of India, and **(tick any one)**

- ☐ I was born in India before 01.07.1987
- Provide any document, for Self, from the list given below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.
- ☐ I was born in India between 01.07.1987 and 02.12.2004
- Provide any document, for Self, from the list given below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.
 - Provide any document, for Father or Mother, from the list given below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.
- ☐ I was born in India after 02.12.2004
- Provide any document, for Self, from the list given below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.
 - Provide any document, for Father, from the list given below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.
 - Provide any document, for Mother, from the list given below establishing date of birth and/or place of birth.
 - If any parent is not Indian, provide a copy of his/her valid passport & visa at the time of your birth.
- ☐ I was born outside of India (attach proof of Birth Registration issued by Indian Mission abroad),
- ☐ I have acquired Indian citizenship by Registration/Naturalisation (attach Certificate of Registration of Citizenship)

(ii) I have not acquired the citizenship of any other country.

(iii) I am applying for inclusion in the Electoral Roll and my name is not included in any other Assembly Constituency/ Parliamentary Constituency.

(iv) I am aware that making the above statement or declaration in relation to this application which is false and which I know or believe to be false or do not believe to be true, is punishable under Section 31 of Representation of the People Act, 1950 (43 of 1950) with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine or with both.

Date: _____ Place: _____

Signature/Left Thumb Impression

Indicative (not exhaustive) list of documents to be submitted in support of the declaration (separate self attested documents to be submitted for Self, Father and Mother, if mentioned above, except where extract of the Electoral Roll of Bihar with qualifying date 01.01.2003 is used, which will be considered as a sufficient document in itself):

1. Any Identity card/Pension Payment Order issued to regular employee/pensioner of any Central Govt./State Govt./PSU.
2. Any Identity Card/Certificate/Document issued in India by Government/local authorities/Banks/Post Office/LIC/PSUs prior to 01.07.1987.
3. Birth Certificate issued by the competent authority.
4. Passport
5. Matriculation/Educational certificate issued by recognised Boards/universities
6. Permanent Residence certificate issued by competent State authority
7. Forest Right Certificate
8. OBC/SC/ST or any caste certificate issued by the Competent authority
9. National Register of Citizens (wherever it exists)
10. Family Register, prepared by State/Local authorities.
11. Any land/house allotment certificate by Government

Preshant Bhusan

(TRUE COPY)

ANNEXURE: P2

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

No.23/2025-ERS (Vol.II)

Dated: 24th June, 2025

To,

The Chief Electoral Officer
Bihar, Patna

Sub: Special Intensive Revision w.r.t. 01.07.2025 as the qualifying date.

Sir,

1. I am directed to convey that the Commission has directed a Special Intensive Revision (**SIR**) in exercise of its powers under Article 324, Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (the "RPA 1950"), along with other applicable provisions of the RPA 1950, with reference to 01.07.2025 as the qualifying date, in the State of Bihar, where general election to state Legislative Assembly is due in 2025 (**Annexure A**).
2. **While carrying out the SIR of the electoral rolls, ERO of each Assembly Constituency shall be responsible for ensuring that no eligible citizen is left out while no ineligible person is included in the Electoral Roll.** During the SIR, CEO/DEO will aid ERO to fulfil the constitutional mandate that every eligible person, as per Article 326 of the Constitution of India read with Section 16 and 19 of the RPA 1950, is enrolled as Elector. For this, EROs shall satisfy themselves regarding the eligibility of every person before entering their name in the electoral roll. The detailed guidelines are attached (**Annexure B**).
3. During SIR, EROs through the BLOs shall conduct House to House enumeration. **Every existing elector, as on the date of this order, will be made available an Enumeration Form (Annexure C),** either through BLO or the elector can download the Enumeration Form from <<https://voters.eci.gov.in>>. BLO shall collect one copy of the Enumeration Form and sign the acknowledgment of receipt on the second copy to be retained by the existing elector. Based on the Enumeration Forms received back along with documents, ERO will prepare the draft roll.
4. Further, in case of application for registration as a new elector or for shifting from outside the state, it is also directed that henceforth,

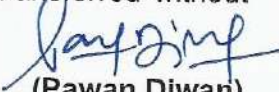
alongwith Form 6/Form 8, an additional Declaration Form (**Annexure D**) shall also be required to be filled by the applicant to support the declaration made therein.

5. The last intensive revision in Bihar was done in 2003, with 01.01.2003 as qualifying date. As the eligibility of Electors enrolled in the Electoral Rolls after the last intensive revision was established then, the Commission has decided that such Electors need not attach any additional document alongwith the Enumeration Form, except the extract of the Roll. Thus, CEO/DEO/ERO shall make the Electoral Rolls with qualifying date of 01.01.2003 freely available to all BLOs in hard copy, as well as, online on their website for anyone to download and use as documentary evidence while submitting their Enumeration Form (**Annexure C**). CEO/DEO/ERO/BLO should also take care that genuine electors, particularly old, sick, PwD, poor and other vulnerable groups are not harassed and are facilitated to the extent possible, including through deployment of volunteers.
6. Also, ERO shall assess the need of new Polling Stations considering that no **Polling station has more than 1,200 electors, except with the prior approval of the Commission**. ERO to also ensure that the polling station area is so defined and demarcated that no overlap exists with any other Polling station.
7. SIR to be undertaken strictly within the timeline as per the following schedule:

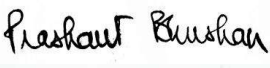
1	<p>(i) ERO to print pre-filled Enumeration Form (in duplicate) for all existing electors and give it to the respective BLOs.</p> <p>(ii) ERO to give training to BLOs about the Revision Exercise.</p> <p>(iii) BLO to distribute Enumeration Form to all existing electors (in duplicate) through House to House visit.</p> <p>(iv) BLO to guide the public on filling up Enumeration Form.</p> <p>(v) BLO to collect Enumeration Forms from the public, along with required documents, or the public can also upload Enumeration Forms and documents online.</p> <p>(vi) Uploading collected Forms in BLO App/ECINet, on a day-to-day basis.</p> <p>(vii) BLO to give recommendations on each Enumeration Form so received.</p>	<p>25.06.2025 (Wednesday) to 26.07.2025 (Saturday)</p>
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	(viii) BLO Supervisor to check the BLO's output in quantitative as well as qualitative terms. (viii) AERO to verify all Enumeration Forms not-recommended by BLOs.	
2	Rationalization/Re-arrangement of Polling Stations and finalization of proposed restructuring of section/part boundaries, location of polling stations and obtaining approval of list of polling stations. A polling Station shall preferably contain not more than 1,200 electors	25.06.2025 (Wednesday) to 26.07.2025 (Saturday)
3	Updation of Control Table and Preparation of draft roll having names of all the existing electors who submitted the duly filled Enumeration Forms.	27.07.2025 (Sunday) to 31.07.2025 (Thursday)
4	Publication of draft electoral roll on 01.08.2025 (Friday)	
5	Period for filing claims & objections	01.08.2025 (Friday) to 01.09.2025 (Monday)
6	Decision on Enumeration Forms received during H2H enumeration period and disposal of claims and objections to be done concurrently and to be completed by the EROs by	By 25.09.2025 (Thursday)
7	(i) Checking of health parameters of the finalised electoral rolls and obtaining Commission's permission for final publication. (ii) Updating database and printing of supplements	By 27.09.2025 (Saturday)
8	Final Publication of Electoral Roll on 30.09.2025 (Tuesday)	

8. Also, to enable fulfilment of the above constitutional mandate, the Commission also directs, under Article 324 of the Constitution, that the Chief Secretary shall ensure that CEO/DEO/ERO/AERO/BLO Supervisor/BLO and all other officers involved in preparation of Electoral Rolls are adequately supported with manpower and resources. During the SIR period, the Chief Secretary shall ensure that no post notified as DEO/ERO/AERO is vacant and no such officer is transferred without prior approval of the Commission.


(Pawan Diwan)
Secretary

Copy to Chief Secretary of Bihar for necessary action.


(TRUE COPY)

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. ECI/PN/233/2025

24.06.2025

Press Note

ECI to begin Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls in Bihar
House-to-House verification to be done to ensure enrolment of all eligible Citizens
Political parties to be encouraged to participate actively in the revision process

The Election Commission of India (ECI) today issued instructions for holding Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in the State of Bihar as per the guidelines and schedule specified by the Commission. The objective of an intensified revision is to ensure that the names of all eligible citizens are included in the Electoral Roll (ER) so as to enable them to exercise their franchise, no ineligible voter is included in the electoral rolls and also to introduce complete transparency in the process of addition or deletion of electors in the electoral rolls. The last intensive revision for Bihar was conducted by the Commission in the year 2003.

Various reasons such as rapid urbanization, frequent migration, young citizens becoming eligible to vote, non-reporting of deaths and inclusion of the names of foreign illegal immigrants have necessitated the conduct of an intensive revision so as to ensure integrity and preparation of error-free electoral rolls. The Booth Level Officers (BLOs) shall be conducting house-to-house survey for verification during the process of this intensive revision.

While conducting the special revision, the ECI shall be scrupulously adhering to the Constitutional and legal provisions regarding eligibility to be registered as a voter and disqualifications for registration in an electoral roll which are clearly laid down in Article 326 of the Constitution of India and Section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 respectively.

In accordance with Section 23 of the Representation of People Act 1950, the eligibility conditions to enrol as an elector were already being verified by the ERO to his satisfaction. Now, to ensure complete transparency, it would be necessary that the documents on the basis of which such satisfaction of ERO is arrived at, are also uploaded in ECINET as the current level of technology enables so. However, these documents shall be accessible to authorized election officials only keeping in view the privacy issues. In case of any claims and objections raised by any political party or an elector, the AERO would inquire into the same before EROs satisfaction is arrived at. Under Section 24 of the Act, an appeal against the order of ERO can also be made to the District Magistrate and the Chief Electoral Officer.

CEO/DEOs/EROs/BLOs have been directed to take care that genuine electors, particularly old, sick, Persons with Disabilities (PwD), poor and other vulnerable groups are not harassed and are facilitated to the extent possible, including through deployment of volunteers.

While all efforts shall be made by the Election Commission of India that the revision process is carried out in a smooth manner causing minimum inconvenience to the electors, ECI shall be seeking active involvement of all political parties in the process by appointing their Booth Level Agents (BLAs) in all polling booths. The active participation of BLAs would ensure that discrepancies, if any, are resolved at the preparation stage itself, thereby reducing the instances of filing claims, objections and appeals. It may be underscored that both, the electors and the political parties, are the most important stakeholders in any electoral process and it is only with their full participation that an exercise of such magnitude can be conducted smoothly and successfully.



P. Pawan
Deputy Director

ECI to begin Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls in Bihar

Key Highlights:

What?



- Article 326 of the Constitution stipulates that:
 - every person who is a citizen of India &
 - who is not less than 18 years of age on the qualifying date &
 - is not otherwise disqualified under any lawshall be entitled to be registered in the electoral roll
- In exercise of its powers under Article 324 of the Constitution & Section 21 of the RP Act 1950, the Election Commission of India has directed a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in the state of Bihar with 01.07.2025 as the qualifying date.
- The last Intensive revision in Bihar was conducted by the Commission in the year 2003 with 01.01.2003 as the qualifying date.

Why?



- Maintaining the integrity of the Electoral Roll (ER) is fundamental for the conduct of free & fair elections
- To ensure that all eligible citizens are included in the ER & no eligible voter is excluded from the ER
- To ensure that no ineligible voter is included in the ER
- To eliminate names of dead/shifted/absentee voters

How?



- EROs to print pre-filled Enumeration Form (EF) for all existing electors as on the date of the order and give it to BLOs
- BLOs to distribute EFs to all existing electors through House-to-House visit
- EF will be available on the ECI website/ECINET which can be downloaded by an elector whose name is in the electoral roll as on the date of the order
- BLAs appointed by all recognised National & State political parties to be associated in the entire process
- BLOs to guide the public on filling up of EF
- CEO/DEOs/EROs/BLOs would take care that genuine electors, particularly old, sick, Persons with Disabilities (PwD), poor and other vulnerable groups are not harassed and are facilitated to the extent possible, including through deployment of volunteers.
- BLOs to collect EFs from the public along with required documents
- Alternatively, existing elector can also upload the EF and documents online
- BLO Supervisor to check the BLO's qualitative & quantitative output
- Draft Electoral Roll to be prepared of all electors whose EF have been received
- Copies of the Draft Electoral Roll to be shared with all recognised National & State political parties & also put on ECI/CEO website
- Claims & objections for any addition/deletion of names can be filed by any elector or by any political party
- AERO will inquire into any complaint on the exclusion of any eligible persons or inclusion of any ineligible persons
- After decision on claims & objections, the Final Electoral Roll will be published by the ERO
- Copies of the Final Electoral Roll to be shared with all recognised National & State political parties & also put on ECI/CEO website
- Under Section 24 of the Act, an appeal against the order of ERO can also be made to the District Magistrate and the second appeal to the Chief Electoral Officer.

ANNEXURE: P4

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

75

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. ECI/PN/236/2025

28.06.2025

Press Note

Special Intensive Revision in Bihar has already started

The Constitution of India is supreme. All citizens, political parties and the Election Commission of India follow the Constitution.

2. Article 326 specifies eligibility to become an elector. Only Indian citizens, above 18 years and ordinary resident in that constituency, are eligible.
3. Special Intensive Revision (SIR) has already started successfully in Bihar for verifying the eligibility of each elector with full participation of all Political Parties.
4. ECI already has 77,895 Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and is appointing nearly 20,603 more BLOs for new polling stations.
5. More than One Lakh volunteers will be assisting genuine electors, particularly the old, sick, Persons with Disabilities (PwD), poor and other vulnerable groups during the SIR.
6. All recognised National and State Political Parties who are registered with ECI have also already appointed 1,54,977 Booth Level Agents (BLAs). They can still appoint more BLAs.
7. Printing as well as door-to-door distribution of new Enumeration Forms (EF) for all the existing 7,89,69,844 electors of Bihar has already started in each of the 243 Assembly Constituencies of Bihar. Online filling of the new Enumeration Forms (EFs) has already been enabled and has also started successfully.
8. Out of the existing 7,89,69,844 electors, 4.96 Crore electors, whose names are already in the last intensive revision of Electoral Roll on 01.01.2003, have to simply verify so, fill the Enumeration Form and submit it.
9. All Divisional Commissioners and District Magistrates are engaging all the BLOs full time during the SIR.
10. SMSs are also being sent to the 5,74,07,022 registered mobile numbers of Bihar.
11. All activities relating to SIR are progressing well as per schedule.



P. Pawan
Deputy Director

Preshant Kushan

(TRUE COPY)

ANNEXURE: P5

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

76

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. ECI/PN/237/2025

30.06.2025

Press Note

Bihar SIR: 2003 Electoral Rolls Uploaded on ECI Website 4.96 crore electors do not need to submit any documents

Children of these 4.96 crore electors need not submit any other document relating to their parents

The Election Commission of India has uploaded the 2003 Electoral Roll of Bihar, comprising details of 4.96 crore electors, on the ECI website – <https://voters.eci.gov.in>.

2. In Para 5 of ECI instructions dated June 24, 2025, it had been mentioned that the CEO/DEO/ERO shall make the Electoral Rolls with qualifying date of 01.01.2003 freely available to all BLOs in hard copy, as well as, online on their website for anyone to download and use as documentary evidence while submitting their Enumeration Form.

3. The ease of availability of 2003 Electoral Rolls of Bihar, would hugely facilitate the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Bihar as now nearly 60 per cent of the total electorate, would not have to submit any documents. They have to just verify their details from the 2003 Electoral Rolls in the ER and submit the filled-up Enumeration Form. Both, the electors as well the BLOs, would be able to readily access these details.

4. Further, as per instructions, anyone whose name is not in the 2003 Bihar Electoral Roll can still use the extract of 2003 Electoral Roll rather than providing any other documents for his/her mother or father. In such cases, no other document would be required for his/her mother or father. Only the relevant extract/details of the 2003 ER would be sufficient. Such electors would have to submit the documents, only for themselves, along with the filled-up Enumeration Form.

5. It is reiterated that before every election, revision of electoral roll is mandatory as per section 21(2)(a) of the Representation of People Act 1950 and Rule 25 of the Registration of Elector Rules 1960. ECI has been conducting annual revisions, intensive as well as summary, for 75 years by now.

6. This exercise is required as the Electoral Roll is always a dynamic list which keeps changing due to deaths, shifting of people due to various reasons such as migration due to occupation/education/marriage, addition of new voters who have turned 18 etc.

7. Further, Article 326 of the Constitution specifies the eligibility to become an elector. Only Indian citizens, above 18 years and ordinary residents in that constituency, are eligible to be registered as an elector.



Preshant Kushan
(TRUE COPY)

P. Pawan
Deputy Director

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, 1950

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

PART I

PRELIMINARY

SECTIONS

1. Short title.
2. Definitions.

PART II

ALLOCATION OF SEATS AND DELIMITATION OF CONSTITUENCIES

The House of the People

3. Allocation of seats in the House of the People.
- 3A. *[Repealed.]*.
4. Filling of seats in the House of the People and Parliamentary constituencies.
5. *[Omitted.]*
6. *[Omitted.]*

The State Legislative Assemblies

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8. Consolidation of delimitation orders.
- 8A. Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur or Nagaland.
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THE SEVENTH SCHEDULE.—[Omitted.]

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, 1950

ACT NO. 43 OF 1950

[12th May, 1950.]

An Act to provide the allocation of seats in, and the delimitation of constituencies for the purpose of election to, the House of the People and the Legislatures of States, the qualifications of voters at such elections, the preparation of electoral rolls, ¹[the manner of filling seats in the Council of States to be filled by representatives of ²[Union territories]], and matters connected therewith.

BE it enacted by Parliament as follows:—

PART I
PRELIMINARY

1. Short title.—This Act may be called the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

2. Definitions.—^{3***} In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “article” means an article of the Constitution;

(b) “Assembly constituency” means a constituency provided ⁴[by law] for the purpose of elections to the Legislative Assembly of a State;

(c) “Council constituency” means a constituency provided ⁵[by law] for the purpose of elections to the Legislative Council of a State;

^{6*} * * * *

(d) “Election Commission” means the Election Commission appointed by the President under article 324;

(e) “order” means an order published in the Official Gazette;

(f) “Parliamentary constituency” means a constituency provided ⁷[by law] for the purpose of elections to the House of the People;

^{8*} * * * *

(g) “person” does not include a body of persons;

(h) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

⁹[(i) “State” includes a Union territory;]

(j) “State Government”, in relation to a Union territory, means the administrator thereof.

^{10*} * * * *

1. Ins. by Act 73 of 1950, s. 2 (w.e.f. 23-12-1950).

2. Subs. by the Adaptation of Laws (No. 2) Order, 1956, for “Part C States” (w.e.f. 1-11-1956).

3. The brackets and figure “(I)” omitted by Act 103 of 1956, s. 65 (w.e.f. 1-1-1957).

4. Subs. by Act 2 of 1956, s. 2, for “by order made under section 9” (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).

5. Subs. by the Adaptation of Laws (No. 2) Order, 1956, for “by order made under section 11” (w.e.f. 1-11-1956).

6. Omitted by Act 103 of 1956, s. 65 (1-1-1957).

7. Subs. by Act 2 of 1956, s. 2, for “by section 6 or by order made thereunder” (1-3-1956).

8. Omitted by the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) (Adaptation of Laws on Union Subjects) Order, 1974, s. 3 and the Schedule (w.e.f. 21-1-1972).

9. Subs. by s. 3 and the Schedule, *ibid.*, for clause (i) (w.e.f. 21-1-1972).

10. Omitted by the Adaptation of Laws (No. 2) Order, 1956 (w.e.f. 1-11-1956).

PART II

ALLOCATION OF SEATS AND DELIMITATION OF CONSTITUENCIES

The House of the People

¹[**3. Allocation of seats in the House of the People.**—The allocation of seats to the States in the House of the People and the number of seats, if any, to be reserved for the Scheduled Castes and for the Scheduled Tribes of each State shall be as shown in the First Schedule.

3A. Reservation of Seats in the House of People for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in certain Part C States.—[*Rep. by the Representation of the People Amendment) Act, 1958 (58 of 1958), s. 3 (w.e.f. 30-12-1958).*]

4. Filling of seats in the House of the People and parliamentary constituencies. —^{2***}

³[(2) All the seats in the House of the People allotted to the States under section 3 shall be seats to be filled by persons chosen by direct election from parliamentary constituencies in the States.]

(3) Every parliamentary constituency referred to in sub-section (2) shall be a single-member constituency.

(4) Every State to which only one seat is allotted under section 3 shall form one parliamentary constituency.

⁴[(5) Save as provided in sub-section (4), the extent of all parliamentary constituencies except the parliamentary constituencies in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Manipur and Nagaland shall be as determined by the orders of the Delimitation Commission made under the provisions of the Delimitation Act, 2002 (33 of 2002) and the extent of the parliamentary constituencies in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Manipur and Nagaland shall be as provided for in the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008 having regard to the provisions of sections 10A and 10B of the Delimitation Act, 2002.]]

5. [Parliamentary constituencies.] Omitted by the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1956 (2 of 1956), s. 4.

6. [Delimitation of parliamentary constituencies.] Omitted by the Adaptation of Laws (No. 2) Order, 1956.

The State Legislative Assemblies

⁵[**7. Total number of seats in Legislative Assemblies and Assembly Constituencies.**—(1) ⁶[Subject to the provisions of ⁷[sub-sections (1A), (1B) and (1C)], the total number of seats] in the Legislative Assembly of each State specified in the Second Schedule, to be filled by persons chosen by direct election from Assembly Constituencies, and the number of seats, if any, to be reserved for the Scheduled Castes and for the Scheduled Tribes of the State, shall be as shown in that Schedule:

Provided that for the period referred to in clause (2) of article 371A, the total number of seats allotted to the Legislative Assembly of the State of Nagaland shall be ⁸[fifty-two], of which—

(a) ⁹[twelve seats] shall be allocated to the Tuensang district and shall be filled by persons chosen by the members of the regional council, referred to in that article, from amongst

1. Subs. by Act 47 of 1966, s. 2, for sections 3 and 4 (w.e.f. 14-12-1966).

2. Omitted by Act 29 of 1975, s. 11 (w.e.f. 15-8-1975).

3. Subs. by s. 11, *ibid.*, for sub-section (2) (w.e.f. 15-8-1975).

4. Subs. by Act 10 of 2008, s. 2, for sub-section (5) (w.e.f. 16-4-2008).

5. Subs. by Act 47 of 1966, s. 4, for sections 7, 8 and 9 (w.e.f. 14-12-1966).

6. Subs. by Act 8 of 1980, s. 2, for certain words (w.e.f. 1-9-1979).

7. Subs. by Act 38 of 1992, s. 2, for “sub-sections (1A) and (1B)” (w.e.f. 5-12-1992).

8. Subs. by Act 61 of 1968, s. 4, for “forty-six” (w.e.f. 31-12-1968).

9. Subs. by s. 4, *ibid.*, for “six seats” (w.e.f. 31-12-1968).

themselves in such manner as the Governor, after consulting that Council may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify, and

(b) the remaining forty seats shall be filled by persons chosen by direct election from assembly constituencies in the rest of the State.

¹[(1A) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the total number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Sikkim, to be constituted at any time after the commencement of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1980 (8 of 1980), to be filled by persons chosen by direct election from assembly constituencies shall be thirty-two, of which—

(a) twelve seats shall be reserved for Sikkimese of Bhutia-Lepcha origin;

(b) two seats shall be reserved for the Scheduled Castes of that State; and

(c) one seat shall be reserved for the Sanghas referred to in section 25A.

Explanation.—In this sub-section “Bhutia” includes Chumbipa, Dophapa, Dukpa, Kagatey, Sherpa, Tibetan, Trompa and Yolmo.]

²[(1B) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), in the Legislative Assemblies of the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland, to be constituted at any time after the commencement of the Representation of the People (Third Amendment) Act, 1987 (40 of 1987),—

(a) ³[fifty-nine seats] shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) fifty-five seats shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Meghalaya;

(c) thirty-nine seats shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Mizoram; and

(d) fifty-nine seats shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Nagaland.]

⁴[(1C) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), twenty seats shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Tripura to be constituted at any time after the commencement of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1992 (38 of 1992).]

(2) Every assembly constituency referred to ⁵[in sub-section (1) or sub-section (1A)] shall be a single-member constituency.

⁶[(3) The extent of each assembly constituency in all the States and Union Territories except the assembly constituencies in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Manipur and Nagaland shall be as determined by the orders of the Delimitation Commission made under the provisions of the Delimitation Act, 2002 (33 of 2002) and the extent of each assembly constituency in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Manipur and Nagaland shall be as provided for in the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008 having regard to the provisions of sections 10A and 10B of the Delimitation Act, 2002 (33 of 2002).]

⁷[7A. **Total number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of Sikkim and Assembly Constituencies.**—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 7, in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Sikkim [deemed under the Constitution (Thirty-sixth Amendment) Act, 1975 to be the

1. Ins. by Act 8 of 1980, s. 2 (w.e.f. 1-9-1979).

2. Ins. by Act 40 of 1987, s. 2 (w.e.f. 22-9-1987).

3. Subs. by Act 10 of 2008, s. 3, for “thirty-nine seats” (w.e.f. 16-4-2008).

4. Ins. by Act 38 of 1992, s. 2 (w.e.f. 5-12-1992).

5. Subs. by Act 8 of 1980, s. 2, for “in sub-section (1)” (w.e.f. 1-9-1979).

6. Subs. by Act 10 of 2008, s. 3, for sub-section (3) (w.e.f. 16-4-2008).

7. Ins. by Act 10 of 1976, s. 2 and the Schedule (w.e.f. 9-9-1975).

Legislative Assembly of that State duly constituted], the total number of seats to be filled by persons chosen by direct election from Assembly constituencies shall be 32.

(2) Every Assembly constituency referred to in sub-section (1) shall be a single-member constituency.

(3) In the Legislative Assembly so deemed to be duly constituted, the extent of each constituency and the reservation of seats shall be as provided for immediately before the commencement of the Constitution (Thirty-sixth Amendment) Act, 1975.]

The Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order

8. Consolidation of delimitation orders.—¹[(1) Having regard to all the orders referred to in sub-section (5) of section 4 and sub-section (3) of section 7 relating to the delimitation of parliamentary and assembly constituencies in all States and Union Territories, except the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Manipur and Nagaland, made by the Delimitation Commission and published in the Official Gazette, the Election Commission shall—

(a) after making such amendments as appear to it to be necessary for bringing up-to-date the description of the extent of the parliamentary and assembly constituencies as given in such orders, without, however, altering the extent of any such constituency;

(b) after taking into account the provisions of the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1976, as made applicable pursuant to the orders made by the President under section 10A of the Delimitation Act, 2002 (33 of 2002) relating to delimitation of parliamentary and assembly constituencies in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland, and the provisions of section 10B of the said Act relating to delimitation of parliamentary and assembly constituencies in the State of Jharkhand,

consolidate all such orders into one single order to be known as the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008 and shall send authentic copies of that Order to the Central Government and to the Government of each State having a Legislative Assembly; and thereupon that Order shall supersede all the orders referred to in sub-section (5) of section 4 and sub-section (3) of section 7 and shall have the force of law and shall not be called in question in any court.]

(2) As soon as may be, after the said Order is received by the Central Government or by the Government of a State, that Government shall cause it to be laid before the House of the People or, as the case may be, the Legislative Assembly of the State.

²[(3) The consolidation under sub-section (1) of the orders referred to in sub-section (5) of section 4, or as the case may be, sub-section (3) of section 7 shall not, ³[as provided in sub-section (5) of section 10 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 (33 of 2002)], affect the representation in, and the territorial constituencies of, the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State existing on the date of publication in the Gazette of India of any such order or orders as may be relevant.]

⁴**[8A. Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur or Nagaland.**—(1) If the President is satisfied that the situation and the conditions prevailing in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur or Nagaland are conducive for the conduct of delimitation exercise, he may, by order, rescind the deferment order issued under the provisions of section 10A of the Delimitation Act, 2002 (33 of 2002) in relation to that State, and provide for the conduct of delimitation exercise in the State by the Election Commission.

(2) As soon as may be after the deferment order in respect of a State is rescinded under sub-section (1), the Election Commission may, by order, determine—

1. Subs. by Act 10 of 2008, s. 4, for sub-section (1) (w.e.f. 16-4-2008).

2. Ins. by Act 88 of 1976, s. 4 (w.e.f. 2-9-1976).

3. Subs. by Act 10 of 2008, s. 4, for certain words (w.e.f. 16-4-2008).

4. Ins. by s. 5, *ibid.* (w.e.f. 16-4-2008).

(a) the parliamentary constituencies into which such State to which more than one seat is allotted in the First Schedule shall be divided;

(b) the extent of each constituency; and

(c) the number of seats, if any, reserved for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes.

(3) As soon as may be after the deferment order in respect of a State is rescinded under sub-section (1), the Election Commission may, by order, determine—

(a) the assembly constituencies into which such State shall be divided for the purpose of elections to the Legislative Assembly of that State;

(b) the extent of each constituency; and

(c) the number of seats, if any, reserved for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes.

(4) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (1), the Election Commission shall, having regard to the provisions of the Constitution and the principles specified in clauses (c) and (d) of sub-section (1) of section 9 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 (33 of 2002) determine the parliamentary and assembly constituencies in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland in which seats shall be reserved, if any, for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

(5) The Election Commission shall,—

(a) publish its proposals under sub-sections (2), (3) and (4) with respect to any State in the Official Gazette and also in such other manner as it thinks fit;

(b) specify a date on or after which the proposals will be further considered by it;

(c) consider all objections and suggestions which may have been received by it before the date so specified;

(d) hold, for the purpose of such consideration, if it thinks fit so to do, one or more public sittings at such place or places in such State as it thinks fit;

(e) after considering all objections and suggestions which may have been received by it before the date so specified, determine, by order, the delimitation of parliamentary and assembly constituencies in the State and also the constituency or constituencies in which seats shall be reserved, if any, for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and cause such order to be published in the Official Gazette; and, upon such publication, the order shall have the force of law and shall not be called in question in any court and the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008 shall be deemed to have been amended accordingly.

(6) Every order made under sub-sections (1) and (2) and clause (e) of sub-section (5) shall be laid before each House of Parliament.

(7) Every order made under sub-sections (1) and (3) and clause (e) of sub-section (5) shall, as soon as may be after it is published under that sub-section, be laid before the Legislative Assembly of the State concerned.]

9. Power of Election Commission to maintain Delimitation Order up-to-date.— (1) The Election Commission may, from time to time, by notification published in the Gazette of India and in the Official Gazette of the State concerned,—

¹[(a) correct any printing mistake in the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008 or any error arising therein from inadvertent slip or omission;

1. Subs. by Act 10 of 2008, s. 6, for clause (a) (w.e.f. 16-4-2008).

(aa) make such amendments in the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008 as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for consolidating with that Order any notification or order relating to delimitation of Parliamentary or assembly constituencies (including reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes in such constituencies) issued under section 8A of this Act or any other Central Act;]

(b) where the boundaries or name of any district or any territorial division mentioned in the Order are or is altered, make such amendments as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for bringing the Order up-to-date;

¹[(c) make such amendments in the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008 as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for bringing the Order up-to-date by including therein and excluding therefrom the relevant areas, consequent upon the exchange of one hundred and eleven enclaves of India and fifty-one enclaves of Bangladesh with effect from 31st July, 2015, in pursuance of the Constitution (One Hundredth Amendment) Act, 2015.]

(2) Every notification under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is issued, before the House of the People and the Legislative Assembly of the State concerned.]

2* * * *

9A. [Power of Election Commission to determine the constituencies to be reserved for scheduled Tribes in main states].—Omitted by the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2008 (10 of 2008), s. 7 (w.e.f. 16-4-2008).

9B. [Power of Election Commission to determine certain constituencies to be reserved for Scheduled Tribes in the State of Tripura]. Omitted by the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2008 (10 of 2008), s. 7 (w.e.f. 16-4-2008).

The State Legislative Councils

10. Allocation of seats in the Legislative Councils.—(1) The allocation of seats in the Legislative Councils of the States having such Councils shall be as shown in the Third Schedule.

(2) In the Legislative Council of each State specified in the first column of the Third Schedule, there shall be the number of seats specified in the second column thereof opposite to that State, and of those seats,—

(a) the numbers specified in the third, fourth and fifth columns shall be the number of seats to be filled by persons elected, respectively, by the electorates referred to in sub-clauses (a), (b) and (c) of clause (3) of article 171;

(b) the number specified in the sixth column shall be the number of seats to be filled by persons elected by the members of the Legislative Assembly of the State from amongst persons who are not members of that Assembly; and

(c) the number specified in the seventh column shall be the number of seats to be filled by persons nominated by the Governor ^{3***} of the State in accordance with the provisions of clause (5) of article 171.

4* * * *

11. Delimitation of Council Constituencies.—As soon as may be after the commencement of this Act, the President shall, by order, determine—

(a) the constituencies into which each State having a Legislative Council shall be divided for the purpose of elections to that Council under each of the sub-clauses (a), (b) and (c) of clause (3) of article 171;

(b) the extent of each constituency; and

(c) the number of seats allotted to each constituency.

Provisions as to orders delimiting constituencies

12. Power to alter or amend orders.—⁵[(1)] The President may, from time to time, after consulting the Election Commission, by order, alter or amend any order made by him under ^{6***} section 11.

1. Ins. by Act 10 of 2016, s. 2 (w.e.f. 4-3-2016).

2. Omitted by the Act 10 of 2008, s. 7 (w.e.f. 16-4-2008).

3. The words “or Rajpramukh, as the case may be” omitted by the Adaptation of Laws (No.2) Order, 1956 (w.e.f. 1-11-1956).

4. Omitted by Act 37 of 1957, s. 12 (w.e.f. 18-9-1957).

5. Section 12 renumbered as sub-section (1) of that section by Act 20 of 1960, s. 2 (w.e.f. 8-5-1960).

6. The words and figures “section 6, section 9, or” omitted by Act 2 of 1956, s. 7.

¹[(2) An order under sub-section (1) may contain provisions for the allocation of any member representing any council constituency immediately before the making of the order to any constituency delimited a new or altered by the order and for such other incidental and consequential matters as the President may deem necessary.]

13. Procedure as to orders delimiting constituencies.—^{2***}

(3) Every order made under ^{3***} section 11 or section 12 shall be laid before Parliament as soon as may be after it is made, and shall be subject to such modifications as Parliament may make on a motion made within twenty days from the date on which the order is so laid.

⁴[PART IIA

OFFICERS

13A. Chief electoral officers.—(1) There shall be for each State a chief electoral officer who shall be such officer of Government as the Election Commission may, in consultation with that Government, designate or nominate in this behalf.

(2) Subject to the superintendence, direction and control of the Election Commission, the chief electoral officer shall supervise the preparation, revision and correction of all electoral rolls in the State under this Act.

⁵[**13AA. District election officers.**—(1) For each district in a State, ^{6***}, the Election Commission shall, in consultation with the Government of the State, designate or nominate a district election officer who shall be an officer of Government:

Provided that the Election Commission may designate or nominate more than one such officer for a district if the Election Commission is satisfied that the functions of the office cannot be performed satisfactorily by one officer.

(2) Where more than one district election officer are designated or nominated for a district under the proviso to sub-section (1), the Election Commission shall in the order designating or nominating the district election officers also specify the area in respect of which each such officer shall exercise jurisdiction.

(3) Subject to the superintendence, direction and control of the chief electoral officer, the district election officer shall coordinate and supervise all work in the district or in the area within his jurisdiction in connection with the preparation and revision of the electoral rolls for all parliamentary, assembly and council constituencies within the district.

(4) The district election officer shall also perform such other functions as may be entrusted to him by the Election Commission and the chief electoral officer.]

13B. Electoral registration officers.—(1) The electoral roll ⁷[⁸for each parliamentary constituency in the State of Jammu and Kashmir or in a Union territory not having a Legislative Assembly], each assembly constituency and each Council constituency] shall be prepared and revised by an electoral registration officer who shall be such officer of Government or of a local authority as the Election Commission may, in consultation with the Government of the State in which the constituency is situated, designate or nominate in this behalf.

(2) An electoral registration officer may, subject to any prescribed restrictions, employ such persons as he thinks fit for the preparation and revision of the electoral roll for the constituency.

1. Ins. by Act 20 of 1960, s. 2 (w.e.f. 8-5-1960).

2. Sub-sections (1) and (2) omitted by Act 2 of 1956, s. 8 (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).

3. The words and figures "section 6, section 9," omitted by s. 8, *ibid.* (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).

4. Ins. by s. 9, *ibid.* (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).

5. Ins. by Act 47 of 1966, s. 5 (w.e.f. 14-12-1966).

6. The words "other than a Union territory," omitted by Act 2 of 2004, s. 2 (w.e.f. 29-10-2003).

7. Subs. by Act 103 of 1956, s. 65, for certain words (w.e.f. 1-1-1957).

8. Subs. by Act 47 of 1966, s. 6, for certain words (w.e.f. 14-12-1966).

13C. Assistant electoral registration officers.—(1) The Election Commission may appoint one or more persons as assistant electoral registration officers to assist any electoral registration officer in the performance of his functions.

(2) Every assistant electoral registration officer shall, subject to the control of the electoral registration officer, be competent to perform all or any of the functions of the electoral registration officer.

¹[**13CC. Chief Electoral Officers, District Election Officers, etc., deemed to be on deputation to Election Commission.**—The officers referred to in this Part and any other officer or staff employed in connection with the preparation, revision and correction of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections shall be deemed to be on deputation to the Election Commission for the period during which they are so employed and such officers and staff shall, during that period, be subject to the control, superintendence and discipline of the Election Commission.]

PART IIB

ELECTORAL ROLLS FOR PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

²[**13D. Electoral rolls for parliamentary constituencies.**—(1) The electoral roll for every parliamentary constituency, other than a parliamentary constituency in the State of Jammu and Kashmir or in a Union territory not having a Legislative Assembly, shall consist of the electoral rolls for all the assembly constituencies comprised within that parliamentary constituency; and it shall not be necessary to prepare or revise separately the electoral roll for any such parliamentary constituency:

Provided that for the period referred to in clause (2) of article 371A, it shall be necessary to prepare and revise separately the electoral roll for that part of the parliamentary constituency of Nagaland which comprises the Tuensang district and the provisions of Part III shall apply in relation to the preparation and revision of the electoral roll of the said part as they apply in relation to an assembly constituency.

(2) The provisions of Part III shall apply in relation to every parliamentary constituency in the State of Jammu and Kashmir or in a Union territory not having a Legislative Assembly as they apply in relation to an assembly constituency.]

PART III

³[ELECTORAL ROLLS FOR ASSEMBLY ⁴*** CONSTITUENCIES]

⁵[**14. Definitions.**—In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “constituency” means an Assembly constituency ⁴*** ;

(b) “qualifying date”, in relation to the preparation or revision of every electoral roll under this Part, means ⁶[the 1st day of January, the 1st day of April, the 1st day of July and the 1st day of October] of the year in which it is so prepared or revised:]

⁷[Provided that “qualifying date”, in relation to the preparation or revision of every electoral roll under this Part in the year 1989, shall be the 1st day of April, 1989.]

15. Electoral roll for every constituency.—For every constituency there shall be an electoral roll which shall be prepared in accordance with the provisions of this Act under the superintendence, direction and control of the Election Commission.

1. Ins. by Act 1 of 1989, s. 2 (w.e.f. 15-3-1989).

2. Subs. by Act 47 of 1966, s. 7, for section 13D (w.e.f. 14-12-1966).

3. Subs. by Act 2 of 1956, s. 10, for the heading “REGISTRATION OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTORS” (w.e.f. 1-8-2022).

4. Certain words omitted by Act 103 of 1956, s. 65 (w.e.f. 1-1-1957).

5. Subs. by Act 2 of 1956, s. 11, for section 14 (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).

6. Subs. by Act 49 of 2021, s. 2, for “the 1st day of January” (w.e.f. 1-8-2022).

7. Ins. by Act 21 of 1989, s. 3 (w.e.f. 28-3-1989).

16. Disqualifications for registration in an electoral roll.—(1) A person shall be disqualified for registration in an electoral roll if he—

- (a) is not a citizen of India; or
- (b) is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court; or
- (c) is for the time being disqualified from voting under the provisions of any law relating to corrupt^{1***} practices and other offences in connection with elections.

(2) The name of any person who becomes so disqualified after registration shall forthwith be struck off the electoral roll in which it is included:

²[Provided that the name of any person struck off the electoral roll of a constituency by reason of a disqualification under clause (c) of sub-section (1) shall forthwith be re-instated in that roll if such disqualification is, during the period such roll is in force, removed under any law authorising such removal.]

17. No person to be registered in more than one constituency.—No person shall be entitled to be registered in the electoral roll for more than one constituency^{3* * *}.

18. No Person to be registered more than once in any constituency.—No person shall be entitled to be registered in the electoral roll for any constituency more than once.

⁴[**19. Conditions of registration.**—Subject to the foregoing provisions of this Part, every person who —

- (a) is not less than ⁵[eighteen years] of age on the qualifying date, and
- (b) is ordinarily resident in a constituency,

shall be entitled to be registered in the electoral roll for that constituency.]

20. Meaning of “ordinarily resident”.—⁶[(1) A person shall not be deemed to be ordinarily resident in a constituency on the ground only that he owns, or is in possession of, a dwelling house therein.

(1A) A person absenting himself temporarily from his place of ordinary residence shall not by reason thereof cease to be ordinarily resident therein.

(1B) A member of Parliament or of the Legislature of a State shall not during the term of his office cease to be ordinarily resident in the constituency in the electoral roll of which he is registered as an elector at the time of his election as such member, by reason of his absence from that constituency in connection with his duties as such member.]

(2) A person who is a patient in any establishment maintained wholly or mainly for the reception and treatment of persons suffering from mental illness or mental defectiveness, or who is detained in prison or other legal custody at any place, shall not by reason thereof be deemed to be ordinarily resident therein.

⁷[(3) Any person having a service qualification shall be deemed to be ordinarily resident on any date in the constituency in which, but for his having such service qualification, he would have been ordinarily resident on that date.]

1. The words “and illegal” omitted by Act 58 of 1960, s. 3 and the Second Schedule (w.e.f. 26-12-1960).

2. Ins. by Act 73 of 1950, s. 4 (w.e.f. 23-12-1950).

3. The words “in the same State” omitted by Act 58 of 1958, s. 6 (w.e.f. 30-12-1958).

4. Subs. by s. 7, *ibid.*, for section 19 (w.e.f. 30-12-1958).

5. Subs. by Act 21 of 1989, s. 4, for “twenty-one years” (w.e.f. 28-3-1989).

6. Subs. by Act 58 of 1958, s. 8, for sub-section (1) (w.e.f. 30-12-1958).

7. Subs. by Act 47 of 1966, s. 8, for sub-section (3) (w.e.f. 14-12-1966).

(4) Any person holding any office in India declared¹ by the President in consultation with the Election Commission to be an office to which the provisions of this sub-section apply, ^{2***} shall be deemed to be ordinarily resident ^{3***} on any date in the constituency in which, but for the holding of any such office ^{4***}, he would have been ordinarily resident ^{5* * *} on that date.

(5) The statement of any such person as is referred to in sub-section (3) or sub-section (4) made in the prescribed form and verified in the prescribed manner, that ⁶[but for his having the service qualification] or but for his holding any such office ^{7***} as is referred to in sub-section (4) he would have been ordinarily resident in a specified place ^{8***} on any date, shall, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, be ⁶[accepted as correct].

(6) The ⁹[spouse] of any such person as is referred to in sub-section (3) or sub-section (4) shall ¹⁰[if such spouse] be ordinarily residing with such person ^{11***} be deemed to be ordinarily resident on ^{12***} in the constituency specified by such person under sub-section (5).

¹³[(7) If in any case a question arises as to where a person is ordinarily resident at any relevant time, the question shall be determined with reference to all the facts of the case and to such rules as may be made in this behalf by the Central Government in consultation with the Election Commission.]

(8) In sub-sections (3) and (5) “service qualification” means—

- (a) being a member of the armed forces of the Union; or
- (b) being a member of a force to which the provisions of the Army Act, 1950 (46 of 1950), have been made applicable whether with or without modifications; or
- (c) being a member of an armed police force of a State, who is serving outside that State; or
- (d) being a person who is employed under the Government of India, in a post outside India.

¹⁴[**20A. Special provisions for citizens of India residing outside India.**—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, every citizen of India—

- (a) whose name is not included in the electoral roll;

1. The following offices have been declared by the President by Notification No. S.O. 959, dated the 18th April, 1960: —

1. The President of India.
 2. The Vice-President of India.
 3. The Governors of States.
 4. Cabinet Ministers of the Union or of any State.
 5. The Deputy Chairman and Members of the Planning Commission.
 6. The Ministers of State of the Union or of any State.
 7. The Deputy Ministers of the Union or of any State.
 8. The Speaker of the House of the People or of any State Legislative Assembly.
 9. The Chairman of any State Legislative Council.
 10. The Lieutenant Governors of Union territories.
 11. The Deputy Speaker of the House of the People or of any State Legislative Assembly.
 12. The Deputy Chairman of the Council of States or of any State Legislative Council.
 13. The Parliamentary Secretaries of the Union or of any State.
2. Certain words omitted by Act 47 of 1966, s. 8 (w.e.f. 14-12-1966).
 3. The words “during any period or” omitted by Act 2 of 1956, s. 14 (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).
 4. The words “or employment” omitted by Act 47 of 1966, s. 8 (w.e.f. 14-12-1966).
 5. The words “during any period or” omitted by Act 2 of 1956, s. 14 (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).
 6. Subs. by Act 47 of 1966, s. 8, for certain words (w.e.f. 14-12-1966).
 7. Certain words omitted by s. 8, *ibid.* (w.e.f. 14-12-1966).
 8. The words “during any period or” omitted by Act 2 of 1956, s. 14 (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).
 9. Subs. by Act 49 of 2021, s. 3, for “wife” (w.e.f. 1-8-2022).
 10. Subs. by s. 3, *ibid.*, for “if she” (w.e.f. 1-8-2022).
 11. The words “during any period” omitted by Act 2 of 1956, s. 14 (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).
 12. The words “during that period” omitted by s. 14, *ibid.* (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).
 13. Ins. by Act 47 of 1966, s. 8 (w.e.f. 14-12-1966).
 14. Ins. by Act 36 of 2010, s. 2 (w.e.f. 10-2-2011).

(b) who has not acquired the citizenship of any other country; and

(c) who is absenting from his place of ordinary residence in India owing to his employment, education or otherwise outside India (whether temporarily or not),

shall be entitled to have his name registered in the electoral roll in the constituency in which his place of residence in India as mentioned in his passport is located.

(2) The time within which the name of persons referred to in sub-section (1) shall be registered in the electoral roll and the manner and procedure for registering of a person in the electoral roll under sub-section (1) shall be such as may be prescribed.

(3) Every person registered under this section shall, if otherwise eligible to exercise his franchise, be allowed to vote at an election in the constituency.]

¹[**21. Preparation and revision of electoral rolls.** — (1) The electoral roll for each constituency shall be prepared in the prescribed manner by reference to the qualifying date and shall come into force immediately upon its final publication in accordance with the rules made under this Act.

²[(2) The said electoral roll—

(a) shall, unless otherwise directed by the Election Commission for reasons to be recorded in writing, be revised in the prescribed manner by reference to the qualifying date—

(i) before each general election to the House of the People or to the Legislative Assembly of a State; and

(ii) before each bye-election to fill a casual vacancy in a seat allotted to the constituency; and

(b) shall be revised in any year in the prescribed manner by reference to the qualifying date if such revision has been directed by the Election Commission:

Provided that if the electoral roll is not revised as aforesaid, the validity or continued operation of the said electoral roll shall not thereby be affected.]

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2), the Election Commission may at any time, for reasons to be recorded, direct a special revision of the electoral roll for any constituency or part of a constituency in such manner as it may think fit:

Provided that subject to the other provisions of this Act, the electoral roll for the constituency, as in force at the time of the issue of any such direction, shall continue to be in force until the completion of the special revision so directed.

³[**22. Correction of entries in electoral rolls.**—If the electoral registration officer for a constituency, on application made to him or on his own motion, is satisfied after such inquiry as he thinks fit, that any entry in the electoral roll of the constituency—

(a) is erroneous or defective in any particular,

(b) should be transposed to another place in the roll on the ground that the person concerned has changed his place of ordinary residence within the constituency, or

(c) should be deleted on the ground that the person concerned is dead or has ceased to be ordinarily resident in the constituency or is otherwise not entitled to be registered in that roll,

the electoral registration officer shall, subject to such general or special directions, if any, as may be given by the Election Commission in this behalf, amend, transpose or delete the entry ⁴[after proper verification of facts in such manner as may be prescribed]:

1. Subs. by Act 2 of 1956, s. 15, for sections 21 to 25 (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).

2. Subs. by Act 47 of 1966, s. 9, for sub-section (2) (w.e.f. 14-12-1966).

3. Subs. by Act 58 of 1958, s. 9, for section 22 (w.e.f. 30-12-1958).

4. Ins. by Act 36 of 2010, s. 3 (w.e.f. 10-2-2011).

Provided that before taking any action on any ground under clause (a) or clause (b) or any action under clause (c) on the ground that the person concerned has ceased to be ordinarily resident in the constituency or that he is otherwise not entitled to be registered in the electoral roll of that constituency, the electoral registration officer shall give the person concerned a reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of the action proposed to be taken in relation to him ¹[after proper verification of facts in such manner as may be prescribed].

²[**23. Inclusion of names in electoral rolls.**— (1) Any person whose name is not included in the electoral roll of a constituency may apply to the electoral registration officer for the inclusion of his name in that roll.

(2) The electoral registration officer shall, if satisfied that the applicant is entitled to be registered in the electoral roll, direct his name to be included therein ³[after proper verification of facts in such manner as may be prescribed]:

Provided that if the applicant is registered in the electoral roll of any other constituency, the electoral registration officer shall inform the electoral registration officer of that other constituency and that officer shall, on receipt of the information, strike off the applicant's name from that roll ³[after proper verification of facts in such manner as may be prescribed].

(3) No amendment, transposition or deletion of any entry shall be made under section 22 and no direction for the inclusion of a name in the electoral roll of a constituency shall be given under this section, after the last date for making nominations for an election in that constituency or in the parliamentary constituency within which that constituency is comprised and before the completion of that election.]

⁴[(4) The electoral registration officer may for the purpose of establishing the identity of any person require that such person may furnish the Aadhaar number given by the Unique Identification Authority of India as per the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 (18 of 2016):

Provided that the electoral registration officer may also require the Aadhaar number from persons already included in the electoral roll for the purposes of authentication of entries in electoral roll and to identify registration of name of the same person in the electoral roll of more than one constituency or more than once in the same constituency.

(5) Every person whose name is included in the electoral roll may intimate his Aadhaar number to such authority in such form and manner as may be prescribed, on or before a *date to be notified by the Central Government in the Official Gazette.

(6) No application for inclusion of name in the electoral roll shall be denied and no entries in the electoral roll shall be deleted for inability of an individual to furnish or intimate Aadhaar number due to such sufficient cause as may be prescribed:

Provided that such individual may be allowed to furnish such other alternate documents as may be prescribed.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, the expression "Aadhaar number" shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (a) of Section 2 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 (18 of 2016).]

1. Ins. by Act 36 of 2010, s. 3 (w.e.f. 10-2-2011).

2. Subs. by Act 47 of 1966, s. 10, for s. 23 (w.e.f. 14-12-1966).

3. Ins. by Act 36 of 2010, s. 4 (w.e.f. 10-2-2011).

4. Ins. by Act 49 of 2021, s. 4 (w.e.f. 1-8-2022).

* **1st April, 2023** section 25 (5), vide notification No. S.O. 2805(E), dated 17th June, 2022, see Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, sec. 3 (ii).

¹[**24. Appeals.**—An appeal shall lie within such time and in such manner as may be prescribed—

(a) to the ²[district magistrate or additional district magistrate or executive magistrate or district collector or an officer of equivalent rank], from any order of the electoral registration officer under section 22 or section 23 ^{3***}.

⁴[(b) to the chief electoral officer, from any order of the district magistrate or the additional district magistrate under clause (a)].

25. Fee for applications and appeals.— Every applications under section 22 or section 23 and every appeal under section 24 shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee which shall, in no case, be refunded.]

⁵[**25A. Conditions of registration as elector in Sangha constituency in Sikkim.**—Notwithstanding anything contained in sections 15 and 19, for the Sangha constituency in the State of Sikkim, only the Sanghas belonging to monasteries, recognised for the purpose of the elections held in Sikkim in April, 1974, for forming the Assembly for Sikkim, shall be entitled to be registered in the electoral roll, and the said electoral roll shall, subject to the provisions of sections 21 to 25, be prepared or revised in such manner as may be directed by the Election Commission, in consultation with the Government of Sikkim.]

PART IV

⁶[ELECTORAL ROLLS FOR COUNCIL CONSTITUENCIES]

26. [*Preparation of electoral rolls for Assembly constituencies.*] Omitted by the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1956 (2 of 1956), s. 17.

27. Preparation of electoral roll for Council constituencies.—(1) In this section, “local authorities’ constituency”, “graduates’ constituency” and “teachers’ constituency” mean a constituency for the purpose of elections to a Legislative Council under sub-clause (a), sub-clause (b) and sub-clause (c), respectively, of clause (3) of article 171.

⁷[(2) For the purpose of elections to the Legislative Council of a State in any local authorities’ constituency—

(a) the electorate shall consist of members of such local authorities exercising jurisdiction in any place or area within the limits of that constituency as are specified in relation to that State in the Fourth Schedule;

(b) every member of each such local authority within a local authorities’ constituency shall be entitled to be registered in the electoral roll for that constituency;

(c) the electoral registration officer for every local authorities’ constituency shall maintain in his office in the prescribed manner and form the electoral roll for that constituency corrected up-to-date;

(d) in order to enable the electoral registration officer to maintain the electoral roll corrected up-to-date, the chief executive officer of every local authority (by whatever designation such officer may be known) shall immediately inform the electoral registration officer about every change in the membership of that local authority; and the electoral registration officer shall, on receipt of the information, strike off from the electoral roll the names of persons who have ceased to be, and include therein the names of persons who have become, members of that local authority; and

1. Ins. by Act 40 of 1961, s. 3 (w.e.f. 20-9-1961).

2. Subs. by Act 41 of 2009, s. 2, for certain words (w.e.f. 1-2-2010).

3. The word “and” omitted by Act 47 of 1966, s. 11 (w.e.f. 14-12-1966).

4. Ins. by Act 41 of 2009, s. 2 (w.e.f. 1-2-2010).

5. Ins. by Act 10 of 1976, s. 2 and the Schedule (w.e.f. 9-9-1975).

6. Subs. by Act 2 of 1956, s. 16, for the heading (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).

7. Subs. by s. 18, *ibid.*, for sub-section (2) (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).

(e) the provisions of sections 15, 16, 18, 22 and 23 shall apply in relation to local authorities' constituencies as they apply in relation to assembly constituencies.]

(3) For the purpose of elections to the Legislative Council of a State in the graduates' constituencies and the teachers' constituencies, the State Government concerned may, with the concurrence of the Election Commission, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify—

(a) the qualifications which shall be deemed to be equivalent to that of a graduate of a university in the territory of India, and

(b) the educational institutions within the State not lower in standard than that of a secondary school.

¹[(4) The provisions of sections 15, 16, 18, 21, 22 and 23 shall apply in relation to graduates' constituencies and teachers' constituencies as they apply in relation to assembly constituencies.]

(5) Subject to the foregoing provisions of this section,—

2* * * *

³[(a)] every person who ⁴[is] ordinarily resident in a graduates' constituency and has, for at least three years ⁵[before the qualifying date], been either a graduate of a University in the territory of India or in possession of any of the qualifications specified under clause (a) of sub-section (3) by the State Government concerned, shall be entitled to be registered in the electoral roll for that constituency; and

⁶[(b)] every person who ⁵[is] ordinarily resident in a teachers' constituency, and has, within the six years immediately ⁶[before the qualifying date] for a total period of at least three years, been engaged in teaching in any of the educational institutions specified under clause (b) of sub-section (3) by the State Government concerned shall be entitled to be registered in the electoral roll for that constituency.

⁷[(6) For the purposes of sub-sections (4) and (5) the qualifying date shall be the 1st day of November of the year in which the preparation or revision of the electoral roll is commenced.]

⁸[PART IVA

MANNER OF FILLING SEATS IN THE COUNCIL OF STATES TO BE FILLED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ⁹[UNION TERRITORIES]

27A. Constitution of electoral colleges for the filling of seats in the Council of States allotted to Union territories.—(1) ¹⁰[For the purpose of filling any seat] or seats in the Council of States allotted to any ⁶[Union territory] ¹¹* * * in the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution there shall be an electoral college for ¹²[each such territory] ¹³* * *.

14* * * *
15* * * *

1. Subs. by Act 2 of 1956, s. 18(b), for sub-section (4) (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).

2. Clause (a) omitted by s. 18(c), *ibid.* (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).

3. Clause (b) re-lettered as clause (a) by s. 18(c), *ibid.* (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).

4. Subs. by Act 40 of 1961, s. 4, for "on the qualifying date was" (w.e.f. 20-9-1961).

5. Subs. by s. 4, *ibid.*, for "before that date" (w.e.f. 20-9-1961).

6. Clause (c) re-lettered as clause (b) by Act 2 of 1956, s. 18(c) (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).

7. Subs. by Act 40 of 1961, s. 4(b), *ibid.*, for sub-section (6) (w.e.f. 20-9-1961). Earlier sub-section (6) was substituted by Act 2 of 1956, s. 18(d) (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).

8. Ins. by Act 73 of 1950, s. 8 (w.e.f. 23-12-1950).

9. Subs. by the Adaptation of Laws (No. 2) Order, 1956, for "Part C States" (w.e.f. 23-12-1950).

10. Subs. by Act 29 of 1975, s. 11(a), for certain words (w.e.f. 15-8-1975).

11. The words "or group of such States" omitted by the Adaptation of Laws (No. 2) Order, 1956 (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).

12. Subs., *ibid.*, for "each such State".

13. The words "or group of States" omitted by Act 2 of 1956, s. 19 (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).

14. The proviso omitted by s.19, *ibid.* (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).

15. Omitted by Act 20 of 1963, s. 57(1)(b) and the Second Schedule. Earlier sub-section (2) was amended by Act 49 of 1951, s.44 and Schudle 5 (w.e.f. 13-5-1963).

¹[²(3) The electoral college for the Union territory of Delhi shall consist of the elected members of the Legislative Assembly constituted for that territory under the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991 (1 of 1992).]

³[⁴(4) ^{5***} The electoral college for the Union territory of Pondicherry] shall consist of the elected members of the Legislative Assembly constituted for that territory under the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 (20 of 1963).]

6*	*	*	*	*
7*	*	*	*	*

27B. [Electoral College constituencies.] Omitted by the Territorial Councils Act, 1956 (103 of 1956), s. 65.

27C. [Delimitation of Electoral College constituencies.] Omitted by s. 65, *ibid.*

27D. [Power to alter or amend orders.] Omitted. by s. 65, *ibid.*

27E. [Procedure as to orders delimiting constituencies.] Omitted by the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1956 (2 of 1956), s. 21.

27F. [Electoral rolls for Council of States constituencies.] Omitted by s. 22, *ibid.*

27G. Termination of membership of electoral college for certain disqualifications.—If a person who is a member of an electoral college becomes subject to any disqualification for membership of Parliament under the provisions of any law relating to corrupt and illegal practices and other offences in connection with elections to Parliament, he shall thereupon cease to be such member of the electoral college.

27H. Manner of filling of seats in the Council of States allotted to Union territories.—^{8* * *} The seat or seats in the Council of States allotted to any ⁹[Union territory] ^{10* * *} in the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution shall be filled by a person or persons elected by the members of the electoral college for ¹¹[that territory] ^{12* * *} in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote:

¹³[Provided that the person who immediately before the commencement of the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956, is filling the seat allotted to the Part C States of Manipur and Tripura shall, as from such commencement, be deemed to have been duly elected to fill the seat allotted to the Union territory of Tripura.]

27-I. [Special provisions for the filling of the seats in the Council of States allotted to the States of Ajmer and Coorg and the States of Manipur and Tripura.] Omitted by the Adaptation of Laws (No. 2) Order, 1956.

27J. Powers of electoral colleges to elect notwithstanding vacancies therein.—No election by the members of an electoral college ^{14***} under this Act shall be called in question on the ground merely of the existence of any vacancy in the membership of such college ^{7* * *}.

1. Subs. by Act 103 of 1956, s. 65(f), for sub-sections (3), (4) or (5) (w.e.f. 1-1-1957).

2. Subs. by Act 1 of 1992, s. 55, for sub-section (3) (w.e.f. 2-10-1993).

3. Subs. by Act 20 of 1963, s. 57(I)(b) and the second Schedule, for sub-section (4) (w.e.f. 13-5-1963).

4. Subs. by Act 69 of 1986, s. 7, for certain words (w.e.f. 20-2-1987).

5. The word "Mizoram" omitted by Act 34 of 1986, s. 7 (w.e.f. 20-2-1987).

6. Sub-section (5) omitted by Act 29 of 1975, s. 11(c) (w.e.f. 15-8-1975).

7. Sub-section (6) omitted by Act 32 of 1954, s. 7 (w.e.f. 1-7-1954).

8. Certain words omitted by the Adaptation of Laws (No. 2) Order, 1956 (w.e.f. 1-11-1956).

9. Subs., *ibid.*, for "Part C State" (w.e.f. 1-11-1956).

10. The words "or group of such States" omitted, *ibid.* (w.e.f. 1-11-1956).

11. Subs., *ibid.*, for "such State". (w.e.f. 1-11-1956).

12. The words "or group of States" omitted by Act 2 of 1956, s. 23 (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).

13. Ins. by the Adaptation of Laws (No. 2) Order, 1956 (w.e.f. 1-11-1956).

14. Certain words omitted by Act 49 of 1951, s. 44 and the Fifth Schedule (w.e.f. 6-9-1951).

27K. [Electoral colleges for certain States for which Legislative Assemblies have been constituted.] Omitted by the Adaptation of Laws (No. 2) Order, 1956.] (w.e.f. 1-11-1956).

PART V

GENERAL

28. Power to make rules.—(1) The Central Government may, after consulting the Election Commission, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

¹[(a) the determination of ordinary residence under sub-section (7) of section 20;

(aa) the particulars to be entered in the electoral rolls;]

(b) the preliminary publication of electoral rolls ²* * *;

(c) the manner in which and the time within which claims and objections as to entries in electoral rolls may be preferred;

³* * * * *

(e) the manner in which notices of claims or objections shall be published;

(f) the place, date and time at which claims or objections shall be heard and the manner in which claims or objections shall be heard and disposed of;

(g) the final publication of electoral rolls;

⁴[(h) the revision and correction of electoral roll and inclusion of names therein;]

⁵[(hh) the procedure for proper verification of facts for amending, transposing or deleting any entry in the electoral rolls, under section 22;

(hhh) the procedure for proper verification of facts for inclusion of or striking off, names in the electoral rolls, under sub-section (2) of section 23;]

⁶[(hhha) the authority and the form and manner of intimation of Aadhaar number under sub-section (5) of section 23;

(hhhb) the sufficient cause and furnishing of alternate documents to be provided by the individual under sub-section (6) of section 23;]

(i) any other matter required to be prescribed by this Act.

⁷[(3) Every rule made by the Central Government under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.]

1. Subs. by Act 47 of 1966, s. 12, for clause (a) (w.e.f. 14-12-1966).

2. Certain words omitted by Act 73 of 1950, s. 9 (w.e.f. 23-12-1950).

3. Clause (d) omitted by Act 20 of 1960, s. 3 (w.e.f. 8-5-1960).

4. Subs. by Act 2 of 1956, s. 24(a), for clause (h) (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).

5. Ins. by Act 36 of 2010, s. 5 (w.e.f. 10-2-2011).

6. Ins. by Act 49 of 2021, s. 5 (w.e.f. 1-8-2022).

7. Subs. by Act 88 of 1976, s. 6, for sub-section (3) (w.e.f. 2-9-1976).

¹[**29. Staff of local authorities to be made available.**—Every local authority in a State shall, when so requested by the chief electoral officer of the State, make available to any electoral registration officer such staff as may be necessary for the performance of any duties in connection with the preparation and revision of electoral rolls.]

30. Jurisdiction of civil courts barred.—No civil court shall have jurisdiction—

(a) to entertain or adjudicate upon any question whether any person is or is not entitled to be registered in an electoral roll for a constituency; or

(b) to question the legality of any action taken by or under the authority of an electoral registration officer, or of any decision given by any authority appointed under this Act for the revision of any such roll.

²[³**31. Making false declarations.**—If any person makes in connection with—

(a) the preparation, revision or correction of an electoral roll, or

(b) the inclusion or exclusion of any entry in or from an electoral roll,

a statement or declaration in writing which is false and which he either knows or believes to be false or does not believe to be true, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.]

32. Breach of official duty in connection with the preparation, etc., of electoral rolls.—(1) If any electoral registration officer, assistant electoral registration officer or other person required by or under this Act to perform any official duty in connection with the preparation, revision or correction of an electoral roll or the inclusion or exclusion of any entry in or from that roll, is without reasonable cause, guilty of any act or omission in breach of such official duty, he shall be punishable ⁴[with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three months but which may extend to two years and with fine].

(2) No suit or other legal proceeding shall lie against any such officer or other person for damages in respect of any such act or omission as aforesaid.

(3) No court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under sub-section (1) unless there is a complaint made by order of, or under authority from, the Election Commission or the Chief Electoral Officer of the State concerned.]

1. Subs. by Act 2 of 1956, s. 25, for section 29 (w.e.f. 1-3-1956).

2. Ins. by Act 58 of 1958, s. 11 (w.e.f. 30-12-1958).

3. Subs. by Act 20 of 1960, s. 4, for section 31 (w.e.f. 8-5-1960).

4. Subs. by Act 21 of 1996, s. 2, for certain words (w.e.f. 1-8-1996).

¹[THE FIRST SCHEDULE

(See section 3)

Allocation of Seats in the House of the People

Name of the State/Union territory	Number of seats in the House as constituted in 2004 on the basis of the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1976 as amended from time to time			Number of seats in the House as subsequently constituted as per the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008		
	Total	Reserved for the Scheduled Castes	Reserved for the Scheduled Tribes	Total	Reserved for the Scheduled Castes	Reserved for the Scheduled Tribes
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I. STATES						
² [1. Andhra Pradesh	42	6	2	25	4	1]
2. Arunachal Pradesh	2	-	-	2	-	-
3. Assam	14	1	2	14	1	2
4. Bihar	40	7	-	40	6	-
5. Chhattisgarh	11	2	4	11	1	4
6. Goa	2	-	-	2	-	-
7. Gujarat	26	2	4	26	2	4
8. Haryana	10	2	-	10	2	-
9. Himachal Pradesh	4	1	-	4	1	-
³ [*	*	*	*	*	*	*]
10. Jharkhand	14	1	5	14	1	5
11. Karnataka	28	4	-	28	5	2
12. Kerala	20	2	-	20	2	-
13. Madhya Pradesh	29	4	5	29	4	6
14. Maharashtra	48	3	4	48	5	4
15. Manipur	2	-	1	2	-	1
16. Meghalaya	2	-	-	2	-	2
17. Mizoram	1	-	1	1	-	1
18. Nagaland	1	-	-	1	-	-
19. Orissa	21	3	5	21	3	5
20. Punjab	13	3	-	13	4	-
21. Rajasthan	25	4	3	25	4	3
22. Sikkim	1	-	-	1	-	-
23. Tamil Nadu	39	7	-	39	7	-
⁴ [24. Telangana	-	-	-	17	3	2]
25. Tripura	2	-	1	2	-	1
26. Uttarakhand	5	-	-	5	1	-
27. Uttar Pradesh	80	18	-	80	17	-
28. West Bengal	42	8	2	42	10	2
II. UNION TERRITORIES						
1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	-	-	1	-	-
2. Chandigarh	1	-	-	1	-	-
⁵ [3. Dadra and Nagar Haveli Daman and Diu	1	-	1	2	-	1]
4. Delhi	7	1	-	7	1	-
5. Lakshadweep	1	-	1	1	-	1
6. Puducherry	1	-	-	1	-	-
⁶ [7. Jammu and Kashmir	5	-	-	5	-	-]
8. Ladakh	1	-	-	1	-	-
	543	79	41	543	84	47

1. Subs. by Act 10 of 2008, s. 8, for the First Schedule (w.e.f. 16-4-2008).

2. Subs. by Act 6 of 2014, s. 14 and the Second Schedule, for "1. Andhra Pradesh 42 6 2 42 7 3" (w.e.f. 2-6-2014).

3. Entry "10. Jammu and Kashmir" deleted by Act 34 of 2019, s. 10 (w.e.f. 31-10-2019). Now Jammu and Kashmir is a Union territory, vide Act 34 of 2019, s. 2 (w.e.f. 31-10-2019).

4. Ins. by Act 6 of 2014, s. 14 and the Second Schedule (w.e.f. 2-6-2014).

5. Subs. by Act 44 of 2019, ss. 3 and 6 (w.e.f. 26-1-2020).

6. Ins. by Act 34 of 2019, ss. 3 and 10 (w.e.f. 31-10-2019).

¹[THE SECOND SCHEDULE]

(See sections 7 and 7A)

Total number of Seats in the Legislative Assemblies

Name of the State/Union territory	Number of seats in the House as constituted on the basis of the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1976 as amended from time to time			Number of seats in the House as subsequently constituted as per the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 2008		
	Total	Reserved for the Scheduled Castes	Reserved for the Scheduled Tribes	Total	Reserved for the Scheduled Castes	Reserved for the Scheduled Tribes
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I. STATES						
² [1. Andhra Pradesh	294	39	15	175	29	7]
2. Arunachal Pradesh	60	-	59	60	-	59
3. Assam	126	8	16	126	8	16
4. Bihar	243	39	-	243	38	2
5. Chhattisgarh	90	10	34	90	10	29
6. Goa	40	1	-	40	1	-
7. Gujarat	182	13	26	182	13	27
8. Haryana	90	17	-	90	17	-
9. Himachal Pradesh	68	16	3	68	17	3
³ [*	*	*	*	*	*	*]
⁴ [10. Jharkhand	81	9	28	81	9	28
11. Karnataka	224	33	2	224	36	15
12. Kerala	140	13	1	140	14	2
13. Madhya Pradesh	230	34	41	230	35	47
14. Maharashtra	288	18	22	288	29	25
15. Manipur	60	1	19	60	1	19
16. Meghalaya	60	-	55	60	-	55
17. Mizoram	40	-	39	40	-	⁵ [39]
18. Nagaland	60	-	59	60	-	59
19. Orissa	147	22	34	147	24	33
20. Punjab	117	29	-	117	34	-
21. Rajasthan	200	33	24	200	34	25
22. Sikkim	32	2	12**	32	2	12**
23. Tamil Nadu	234	42	3	234	44	2
⁶ [24. Telangana	-	-	-	119	19	12]
25. Tripura	60	7	20	60	10	20
26. Uttarakhand	70	12	3	70	13	2
27. Uttar Pradesh	403	89	-	403	85	-
28. West Bengal	294	59	17	294	68	16]
II. UNION TERRITORIES						
1. Delhi	70	13	-	70	12	-
2. Puducherry	30	5	-	30	5	-
⁷ [3. Jammu and Kashmir	83	6	-	83	6	-]

1. Subs. by Act 10 of 2008, s. 8, for the Second Sch. (w.e.f. 16-4-2008).

2. Subs. by Act 6 of 2014, s. 17, for entry 1 (w.e.f. 2-6-2014).

3. Entry 10 omitted by Act 34 of 2019, s. 14 (w.e.f. 31-10-2019).

4. Entries 11 to 29 renumbered as 10 to 28 by Act 34 of 2019, s. 14(9)(b) (w.e.f. 31-10-2019).

5. Subs. by Act 41 of 2009, s. 3, for "38" (w.e.f. 1-2-2010).

6. Ins. by Act 6 of 2014, s. 17 (w.e.f. 2-6-2014).

7. Ins. by Act 34 of 2019, s. 14 (w.e.f. 31-10-2019).

*Under the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir, the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of that State excluding the 24 seats earmarked for Pakistan occupied territory is 87 out of which 7 seats have been reserved for the Scheduled Castes in pursuance of the Jammu and Kashmir Representation of the People Act, 1957.

** Reserved 1 seat for Sanghas and 12 seats for the Sikkimese of Bhutia Lepcha origin.]

¹[THE THIRD SCHEDULE

(See section 10)

Allocation of Seats in the Legislative Councils

Name of State	Total number of seats	Number to be elected or nominated under article 171(3)				
		Sub-clause (a)	Sub-clause (b)	Sub-clause (c)	Sub-clause (d)	Sub-clause (e)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
² [1. Andhra Pradesh	58	20	5	5	20	8]
³ [2. Bihar	75	24	6	6	27	12]
⁴ *	*	*	*	*	*	*
⁵ [3.] Madhya Pradesh	90	31	8	8	31	12
⁶ *	*	*	*	*	*	*
⁷ [5. Maharashtra	78	22	7	7	30	12]
⁸ [6. ⁹ [Karnataka]	75	25	7	7	25	11]
¹⁰ *	*	*	*	*	*	*
¹¹ [7. Tamil Nadu	78	26	7	7	26	12]
¹² [7A. Telangana	40	14	3	3	14	6]
¹³ [8. Uttar Pradesh	100	36	8	8	38	10]

1. Subs. by Act 37 of 1957, s. 12, for the Third Schedule (w.e.f. 18-9-1957).

2. Subs. by Act 12 of 2015, s. 3, for the existing entry 1 (w.e.f. 29-4-2015).

3. Subs. by Act 30 of 2000, s.17, for entry 2 (w.e.f. 15-11-2000).

4. Entry relating to Bombay omitted by Act 11 of 1960, s. 21 (w.e.f. 1-5-1960).

5. Entry 4 renumbered as entry 3 by s. 21, *ibid.* (w.e.f. 1-5-1960).

6. Omitted by Act 40 of 1986, s. 5 (w.e.f. 1-11-1986).

7. Ins. by Act 11 of 1960, s. 21 (w.e.f. 1-5-1960).

8. Subs. by Act 31 of 1987, s. 2, for entry 6 (w.e.f. 8-9-1987).

9. Subs. by the Mysore State (Alteration of Name) (Adaptation of Laws on Union Subjects) Order, 1974, s. 3 and Schedule, for "Mysore" (w.e.f. 1-11-1973).

10. Omitted by Act 46 of 1969, s. 5 (w.e.f. 7-1-1970).

11. Ins. by Act 16 of 2010, s. 4 (w.e.f. 18-5-2010).

12. Ins. by Act 6 of 2014, s. 17 (w.e.f. 2-6-2014).

13. Subs. by Act 29 of 2000, s.18, for entry 8 (w.e.f. 9-11-2000).

THE FOURTH SCHEDULE

[See section 27(2)]

*Local authorities for purposes of elections to Legislative Councils*¹[ANDHRA PRADESH

1. Municipal Corporations.
2. Municipalities.
3. Nagar Panchayats.
4. Cantonment Boards.
5. Zila Praja Parishads.
6. Mandal Praja Parishads.]

²[BIHAR

1. Nagar Parishads.
2. Cantonment Boards.
3. Nagar Panchayats.
4. Zila Parishads.
5. Panchayat Samitis.
6. Nagar Nigams (Corporations).
7. Gram Panchayats.]

³[MADHYA PRADESH

- ⁴[1. Municipalities.
2. Janapada Sabhas.
3. Mandal Panchayats.
4. Cantonment Boards.
5. Notified Area Committees.
6. Town Area Committees.]]

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⁶[MAHARASHTRA

- ⁷[1. Municipalities.
2. Cantonment Boards.

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4. Zilla Parishad.]]

1. Ins. by Act 1 of 2006, s. 4(b) (w.e.f. 11-1-2006).

2. Subs. by Act 6 of 2003, s. 2, for "BIHAR" (w.e.f. 6-1-2003).

3. Ins. by the Adaptation of Laws (No. 2) Order, 1956.

4. Subs. by Act 37 of 1957, s. 12 (c) (iii), for the existing entries (w.e.f. 1-11-1956).

5. The heading "TAMIL NADU" and the entries relating thereto omitted by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council (Abolition) Act, 1986, s. 5 (w.e.f. 1-11-1986).

6. Ins. by Act 40 of 1961, s. 6 (w.e.f. 20-9-1961).

7. Subs. by Act 2 of 1963, s. 2, for the existing entries (w.e.f. 25-1-1963).

8. Omitted by Act 21 of 1989, s. 5 (w.e.f. 22-5-1989).

¹[KARNATAKA]

- ²
- [1. City Municipal Corporations.
-
2. City Municipal Councils.
-
3. Town Municipal Councils.
-
4. Town Panchayats.
-
5. Zilla Panchayats.
-
6. Taluk Panchayats.
-
7. Grama Panchayats.
-
8. Cantonment Boards.]]

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⁴[TAMIL NADU]

1. Municipalities, as referred to in article 243Q of the Constitution.
-
2. Panchayat Councils.
-
3. Cantonment Boards.
-
4. District Panchayats referred to in the Tamil Nadu Panchayat Act, 1994 (Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 1994).]

⁵[TELANGANA]

1. Municipal Corporations.
-
2. Municipalities.
-
3. Nagar Panchayats.
-
4. Cantonment Boards.
-
5. Zila Praja Parishads.
-
6. Mandal Praja Parishads.]

UTTAR PRADESH

- ⁶
- [1. Municipal Corporations.
-
2. Municipal Councils.
-
3. Zila Panchayats.
-
4. Nagar Panchayats.
-
5. Kshettra Panchayats.
-
6. Cantonment Boards.]

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1. Subs. by the Mysore State (Alteration of Name) (Adaptation of Laws on Union Subjects) Order, 1974, s. 3 and Schedule, for "MYSORE" (w.e.f. 1-11-1973).
-
2. Subs. by Act 29 of 1996, s. 2, for the entries 1 to 5 (w.e.f. 13-9-1996).
-
3. Omitted by Act 46 of 1969, s. 5 (w.e.f. 7-1-1970).
-
4. Ins. by Act 16 of 2010, s. 4 (w.e.f. 18-5-2010).
-
5. Ins. by Act 6 of 2014, s. 23 (w.e.f. 2-6-2014).
-
6. Subs. by Act 29 of 1996, s. 2, for the entries 1 to 6 (w.e.f. 13-9-1996).
-
7. Omitted by Act 20 of 1969, s. 5 (w.e.f. 11-8-1969).
-
8. Omitted by the Adaptation of Laws (No. 2) order, 1956.

THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS RULES, 1960¹PART I
Preliminary

1. Short title and commencement.—(1) These Rules may be called the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

(2) They shall come into force on the 1st day of January, 1961.

2. Definitions and interpretation.—(1) In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "Act" means the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (43 of 1950);

(b) "declared office" means an office declared by the President to be an office to which the provisions of sub-section (4) of section 20 apply;

²[(c) "Form" means a Form appended to these Rules and in respect of any constituency, includes a translation thereof in the language or any of the languages in which the electoral roll for that constituency is prepared;]

(d) "registration officer" means the electoral registration officer of a constituency and includes an assistant electoral registration officer thereof;

(e) "roll" means the electoral roll for a constituency;

(f) "section" means a section of the Act;

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(2) The General Clauses Act, 1897 (10 of 1897), shall apply for the interpretation of these Rules as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

PART II

Electoral rolls for Assembly Constituencies

3. Meaning of constituency.—In this Part "constituency" means an Assembly constituency.

4. Form and languages of roll.—The roll for each constituency shall be prepared in such form and in such language or languages as the Election Commission may direct.

1. Published with the Ministry of Law Notifn. No. S.O. 2750, dated the 10th November, 1960, Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3(ii), page 633.

2. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 3874, dated the 15th December, 1966.

3. Cl. (g) omitted, *ibid.*

5. Preparation of roll in parts.—(1) The roll shall be divided into convenient parts which shall be numbered consecutively.

(2) The last part of the roll shall contain the names of every person having a service qualification and of his wife, if any, who are entitled to be included in that roll by virtue of a statement made under rule 7.

(3) The names of any person holding a declared office and of his wife, if any, who are entitled to be included in the roll by virtue of a statement made under rule 7 shall be included in the part of the roll, pertaining to the locality in which they would, according to that statement, have been ordinarily resident.

(4) The number of names included in any part of the roll shall not ordinarily exceed two thousand.

6. Order of names.—(1) the names of electors in each part of the roll shall be arranged according to house number, unless the chief electoral officer, subject to any general or special instructions issued by the Election Commission, determines in respect of any part that the alphabetical order is more convenient or that the names shall be arranged partly in one way and partly in the other.

(2) The names of electors in each part of the roll shall be numbered, so far as practicable, consecutively with a separate series of numbers beginning with the number one.

7. Statement under section 20.—(1) Every person who holds a declared office or has a service qualification and desires to be registered in the roll for the constituency in which, but for holding such office or having such qualification, he would have been ordinarily resident, shall submit to the¹[registration officer of the constituency], a statement in such one of the¹[Forms 1, 2, 2A and 3] as may be appropriate.

(2) Every statement submitted under sub-rule (1) shall be verified in the manner specified in the Form.

(3) Every such statement shall cease to be valid when the person making it ceases to hold a declared office or, as the case may be, have a service qualification.

8. Information to be supplied by occupants of dwelling-houses.—The registration officer may, for the purpose of preparing the roll, send letters of request in Form 4 to the occupants of dwelling-houses in the constituency or any part thereof; and every person receiving any such letter shall furnish the information called for therein to the best of his ability.

9. Access to certain registers.—For the purpose of preparing any roll or deciding any claim or objection to a roll, any registration officer and any person employed by him shall have access to any register of births and deaths and to the admission register of any educational institution, and it shall be the duty of every person incharge of any such register to give to the said officer or person such information and such extracts from the said register as he may require.

10. Publication of roll in draft.—As soon as the roll for a constituency is ready, the registration officer shall publish it in draft by making a copy thereof available for inspection and displaying a notice in Form 5—

(a) at his office, if it is within the constituency, and

(b) at such place in the constituency as may be specified by him for the purpose, if his office is outside the constituency.

11. Further publicity to the roll and notice.—The registration officer shall also—

(a) make a copy of each separate part of the roll, together with a copy of the notice in Form 5 available for inspection at a specified place accessible to the public and in or near the area to which that part relates;

(b) give such further publicity to the notice in Form 5 as he may consider necessary; and

1. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 3874, dated the 15th December, 1966.

(c) supply free of cost two copies of each separate part of the roll to every political party¹[for which a symbol has been exclusively reserved in the State] by the Election Commission.

²[**12. Period for lodging claims and objections.**—Every claim for the inclusion of a name in the roll and every objection to an entry therein shall be lodged within a period of thirty days from the date of publication of the roll in draft under rule 10, or such shorter period of not less than fifteen days as may be fixed by the Election Commission in this behalf:

Provided that the Election Commission may, by notification in the Official Gazette, extend the period in respect of the constituency as a whole or in respect of any part thereof.]

13. Form for claims and objections.—(1) Every claim shall be—

(a) in Form 6; ³[and]

(b) signed by the person desiring his name to be included in the roll; ^{4***}

^{4*} * * * *

(2) Every objection to the inclusion of a name in the roll shall be—

(a) in Form 7; ³[and]

(b) preferred only by a person whose name is already included in that roll; ^{4***}

^{4*} * * * *

(3) Every objection to a particular or particulars in an entry in the roll shall be—

(a) in Form 8; and

(b) preferred only by the person to whom that entry relates.

⁵[(4) Every application for transposition of an entry from one part to another part of the roll shall be in Form 8A.]

14. Manner of lodging claims and objections.—Every claim or objection shall—

(a) either be presented to the registration officer or to such other officer as may be designated by him in this behalf; or

(b) be sent by ^{6***} post to the registration officer.

15. Procedure of designated officers.—(1) Every officer designated under rule 14 shall—

(a) maintain in duplicate a list of claims in Form 9, a list of objections to the inclusion of names in Form 10 and a list of objections to particulars in Form 11; and

(b) keep exhibited one copy of each such list on a notice board in his office.

(2) Where a claim or objection is presented to him, he shall, after complying with the requirements of sub-rule (1), forward it with such remarks, if any, as he considers proper to the registration officer.

1. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 2791, dated the 24th November, 1961 for "to which a symbol has been allotted".

2. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 35(E), dated the 21st January, 1977, for rule 12.

3. Ins. by Notifn. No. S.O. 817(E), dated the 25th October, 1993.

4. The word "and" and cl. (c) omitted, *ibid.*

5. Ins. by Notifn. No. S.O. 934(E), dated the 18th August, 2003.

6. The word "registered" omitted by Notifn. No. S.O. 3661, dated the 12th October, 1964.

16. Procedure of registration officer.—The registration officer also shall—

(a) maintain in duplicate the three lists in Forms 9, 10 and 11, entering thereon the particulars of every claim or objection as and when it is received by him whether directly under rule 14 or on being forwarded under rule 15; and

(b) keep exhibited one copy of each such list on a notice board in his office.

17. Rejection of certain claims and objections.—Any claim or objection which is not lodged within the period, or in the form and manner, herein specified, shall be rejected by the registration officer.

18. Acceptance of claims and objections without inquiry.—If the registration officer is satisfied as to the validity of any claim or objection, he may allow it without further inquiry after the expiry of one week from the date on which it is entered in the list exhibited by him under clause (b) of rule 16:

Provided that where before any such claim or objection has been allowed, a demand for inquiry has been made in writing to the registration officer by any person, it shall not be allowed without further inquiry.

19. Notice of hearing claims and objections.—(1) Where a claim or objection is not disposed of under rule 17 or rule 18, the registration officer shall—

(a) specify in the list exhibited by him under clause (b) of rule 16, the date, time and place of hearing of the claim or objection; and

(b) give notice of the hearing—

(i) in the case of a claim to the claimant in Form 12;

(ii) in the case of an objection to the inclusion of a name, to the objector in Form 13 and to the person objected to in Form 14; and

(iii) in the case of an objection to a particular or particulars in an entry, to the objector in Form 15.

(2) A notice under this rule may be given either personally or by registered post or by affixing it to the person's residence or last known residence within the constituency.

20. Inquiry into claims and objections.—(1) The registration officer shall hold a summary inquiry into every claim or objection in respect of which notice has been given under rule 19 and shall record his decision thereon.

(2) At the hearing, the claimant or, as the case may be, the objector and the person objected to and any other person who, in the opinion of the registration officer, is likely to be of assistance to him, shall be entitled to appear and be heard.

(3) The registration officer may in his discretion—

(a) require any claimant, objector or person objected to, to appear in person before him;

(b) require that the evidence tendered by any person shall be given on oath and administer an oath for the purpose.

21. Inclusion of names inadvertently omitted.—¹[(1)] If it appears to the registration officer that owing ^{2***} to inadvertence or error during preparation, the names of any electors have been left out of

1. Rule 21 renumbered as sub-rule (1) of that rule by Notifn. No. S.O. 3661, dated the 12th October, 1964.

2. Certain words omitted, *ibid.*

the roll and that remedial action should be taken under this rule, the registration officer shall—

- (a) prepare a list of the names and other details of such electors;
- (b) exhibit on the notice board of his office a copy of the list together with a notice as to the time and place at which the inclusion of these names in the roll will be considered, and also publish the list and the notice in such other manner as he may think fit; and
- (c) after considering any verbal or written objections that may be preferred, decide whether all or any of the names should be included in the roll.

¹[(2) If any statements under rule 7 are received after the publication of the roll in draft under rule 10, the registration officer shall direct the inclusion of the names of the electors covered by the statements in the appropriate parts of the roll.]

²[**21A. Deletion of names.**—If it appears to the registration officer at any time before the final publication of the roll that owing to inadvertence or error or otherwise, the names of dead persons or of persons who have ceased to be, or are not, ordinarily residents in the constituency or of persons who are otherwise not entitled to be registered in that roll, have been included in the roll and that remedial action should be taken under this rule, the registration officer, shall—

- (a) prepare a list of the names and other details of such electors;
- (b) exhibit on the notice board of his office a copy of the list together with a notice as to the time and place at which the question of deletion of these names from the roll will be considered, and also publish the list and the notice in such other manner as he may think fit; and
- (c) after considering any verbal or written objections that may be preferred, decide whether all or any of the names should be deleted from the roll:

Provided that before taking any action under this rule in respect of any person on the ground that he has ceased to be, or is not, ordinarily resident in the constituency, or is otherwise not entitled to be registered in that roll, the registration officer shall make every endeavour to give him a reasonable opportunity to show cause why the action proposed should not be taken in relation to him.]

22. Final publication of roll.—(1) The registration officer shall thereafter—

- (a) prepare a list of amendments to carry out his decisions under rules 18, 20, ³[21 and 21A] and to correct any clerical or printing errors or other inaccuracies subsequently discovered in the roll; ⁴***
- (b) publish the roll, together with the list of amendments, by making a complete copy thereof available for inspection and displaying a notice in Form 16 at his office; ⁵[and]

⁵[(c) subject to such general or special directions as may be given by the Election Commission supply, free of cost, two copies of the roll, as finally published, with the list of amendments, if any, to every political party for which a symbol has been exclusively reserved by the Election Commission.]

(2) On such publication, the roll together with the list of amendments shall be the electoral roll of the constituency.

1. Ins. by Notifn. No. S.O. 3661, dated the 12th October, 1964.

2. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 814(E), dated the 3rd September, 1987, for rule 21A.

3. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 1519, dated the 25th April, 1968, for "and 21".

4. The word "and" omitted by Notifn. No. S.O. 233(E), dated the 31st March, 1984.

5. Ins., *ibid.*

¹[(3) Where the roll (hereafter in this sub-rule referred to as the basic roll), together with the list of amendments, becomes the electoral roll for a constituency under sub-rule (2), the registration officer may, for the

6

convenience of all concerned, integrate, subject to any general or special directions issued by the Election Commission in this behalf, the list into the basic roll by ²[incorporating inclusion of names, amendment, transposition or deletion of entries in the relevant parts of the basic roll itself] in the relevant parts of the basic roll itself, so however that no change shall be made in the process of such integration in the name of any elector or in any particulars relating to any elector as given in the list of amendments.]

23. Appeals from orders deciding claims and objections.—(1) An appeal shall lie from any decision of the registration officer under rule 20, ³[rule 21 or rule 21A] to such officer of Government as the Election Commission may designate in this behalf (hereinafter referred to as the appellate officer):

Provided that an appeal shall not lie where the person desiring to appeal has not availed himself of his right to be heard by, or to make representations to, the registration officer on the matter which is the subject of appeal.

(2) Every appeal under sub-rule (1) shall be—

(a) in the form of a memorandum signed by the appellant, and

(b) presented to the appellate officer within a period of fifteen days from the date of announcement of the decision or sent to that officer by registered post so as to reach him within that period.

(3) The presentation of an appeal under this rule shall not have the effect of staying or postponing any action to be taken by the registration officer under rule 22.

(4) Every decision of the appellate officer shall be final, but in so far as it reverses or modifies a decision of the registration officer, shall take effect only from the date of the decision in appeal.

(5) The registration officer shall cause such amendments to be made in the roll as may be necessary to give effect to the decisions of the appellate officer under this rule.

24. Special provision for preparation of rolls on redelimitation of constituencies.—(1) If any constituency is delimited a new in accordance with law and it is necessary urgently to prepare the roll for such constituency, the Election Commission may direct that it shall be prepared—

(a) by putting together the rolls of such of the existing constituencies or parts thereof as are comprised within the new constituency; and

(b) by making appropriate alterations in the arrangement, serial numbering and headings of the rolls so compiled.

(2) The roll so prepared shall be published in the manner specified in rule 22 and shall, on such publication, be the electoral roll for the new constituency.

25. ⁴[Revision of rolls].—(1) The roll for every constituency shall be revised under sub-section (2) of section 21 either intensively or summarily or partly intensively and partly summarily, as the Election Commission may direct.

1. Ins. by Notifn. No. S.O. 1033, dated the 12th March, 1970.

2. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 814(E), dated the 3rd September, 1987, for certain words.

3. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 1519, dated the 25th April, 1968 for “rule 21”.

4. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 814(E), dated the 3rd September, 1987, for the marginal heading “Annual revision of rolls”.

(2) Where the roll or any part thereof is to be revised intensively in any year, it shall be prepared afresh and rules 4 to 23 shall apply in relation to such revision as they apply in relation to the first preparation of a roll.

(3) When the roll or any part thereof is to be revised summarily in any year, the registration officer shall cause to be prepared a list of amendments to the relevant parts of the roll on the basis of such information as may be readily available and publish the roll together with the list of amendments in draft; and the provisions of rules 9 to 23 shall apply in relation to such revision as they apply in relation to the first preparation of a roll.

(4) Where at any time between the publication in draft of the revised roll under sub-rule (2) or of the roll and list of amendments under sub-rule (3) and the final publication of the same under rule 22, any names have been directed to be included in the roll for the time being in force under section 23, the registration officer shall cause the names to be included also in the revised roll unless there is, in his opinion, any valid objection to such inclusion.

26. ¹[Correction of entries and inclusion of names in electoral rolls].—²[(1) Every application under section 22 or sub-section (1) of section 23 shall be made in duplicate in such one of the Forms ³[6, 7, 8, 8A and 8B as may be appropriate ⁴***].

⁵[Provided that the statements in Forms 2, 2A and 3, from persons having service qualifications, received after the final publication of the electoral roll shall be deemed to be the applications under sections 22 and 23 ⁴***].

⁵[(1A) Every such application as is referred to in sub-rule (1) shall be presented to the registration officer in such manner as the Election Commission may direct.]

6*	*	*	*	*
4*	*	*	*	*

(3) The ⁷*** registration officer shall, immediately on receipt of such application, direct that one copy thereof be posted in some conspicuous place in his office together with a notice inviting objections to such application within a period of seven days from the date of such posting.

1. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 2315, dated the 21st September, 1961, for the marginal heading "Inclusion of names in electoral rolls".

2. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 3874, dated the 15th December, 1966, for sub-rule (1).

3. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 934(E), dated the 18th August, 2003.

4. Certain words and sub-rules (2) and (2A) omitted by Notifn. No. S.O. 537(E), dated the 22nd July, 1992.

5. Ins. by Notifn. No. S.O. 814(E), dated the 3rd September, 1987.

6. Sub-rule (1B) omitted by Notifn. No. S.O. 817(E), dated, 25th October, 1993.

7. Certain words omitted by Notifn. No. S.O. 3874, dated the 15th December, 1966.

¹[(4) The registration officer shall, as soon as may be after the expiry of the period specified in sub-rule (3), consider the application and objections thereto, if any, received by him and shall, if satisfied, direct the inclusion, deletion, correction or transposition of entries in the roll, as may be necessary:]

Provided that when an application is rejected by the registration officer, he shall record in writing a brief statement of his reasons for such rejections.]

27. Appeals from ^{2*} under rule 26.**—³[(1) Every appeal under section 24 shall be—

(a) in the form of a memorandum signed by the ⁴[appellant];

(b) accompanied by a copy of the order appealed from and ⁵[a fee of five rupees] to be—

(i) paid by means of non-judicial stamps; or

(ii) deposited in a Government treasury or the Reserve Bank of India in favour of the chief electoral officer; or

(iii) paid in such other manner as may be directed by the Election Commission; and]

⁷[(c) presented to the chief electoral officer within a period of fifteen days from the date of the order appealed from or sent by registered post so as to reach him within that period:]

⁸[Provided that the chief electoral officer may condone the delay in the presentation of the appeal to him, if he is satisfied that the appellant had sufficient cause for not presenting it within the time prescribed.]

⁹[(1A) Where the fee is deposited under clause (b) (ii) of sub-rule (1), the appellant shall enclose with the memorandum of appeal a Government treasury receipt in proof of the fee having been deposited.]

¹⁰[(2) For the purposes of sub-rule (1), an appeal shall be deemed to have been presented to the chief electoral officer, when the memorandum of appeal is delivered by, or on behalf of, the appellant to the chief electoral officer himself or to any other officer appointed by him in this behalf.]

28. Identity cards for electors in notified constituencies ^{11*}.**—(1) The Election Commission may, with a view to preventing impersonation of electors and facilitating their identification at the time of poll, by notification in the Official Gazette of the State, direct that the provision of this rule shall apply to ¹²[any such constituency or part thereof] as may be specified in the notification.

(2) The registration officer for such notified constituency shall, as soon as may be, after the issue of the notification under sub-rule (1), arrange for the issue to every elector of an identity card prepared in accordance with the provisions of this rule.

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1. Subs. by Notifn No. S. O. 814(E), dated the 3rd September, 1987, for sub-rule (4).
 2. The words "rejecting applications" omitted by Notifn. No. S.O. 3874, dated the 15th December, 1966.
 3. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 2315, dated the 21st September, 1961, for sub-rule (1).
 4. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 814(E), dated the 3rd September, 1987, for "applicant".
 5. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 370, dated the 25th January, 1968, for certain words.
 6. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 814(E), dated the 3rd September, 1987, for "a fee of one rupee".
 7. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 3874, dated the 15th December, 1966, for cl. (c).
 8. Ins. by Notifn. No. S.O. 814(E), dated the 3rd September, 1987.
 9. Ins. by Notifn. No. S.O. 370, dated the 25th January, 1968.
 10. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 3874, dated the 15th December, 1966, for sub-rule (2).
 11. Certain words omitted by Notifn. No. S.O. 1505, dated the 21st April, 1969.
 12. Subs., *ibid.*, for certain words.

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

(3) The identity card shall—

(a) be prepared in duplicate;

(b) contain the name, age, residence and such other particulars of the elector as may be specified by the Election Commission;

(c) have affixed to it a photograph of the elector which shall be taken at the expense of the Government; and

(d) bear the facsimile signature of the registration officer:

Provided that if the elector refuses or evades to have his photograph taken, or cannot be found at his residence by the official photographer in spite of repeated attempts, no such identity card shall be prepared for the elector and a note of such refusal or evasion or that the elector could not be found at his residence in spite of repeated attempts shall be made in the copy of the roll maintained by the registration officer.

(4) One copy of the identity card prepared under sub-rule (3) shall be retained by the registration officer and the other copy shall be delivered to the elector to be kept by him for production at the time of poll.

¹[PART III

Electoral rolls for Parliamentary constituencies in the Union territory of Delhi

29. Rolls for the Parliamentary constituencies in the Union territory of Delhi.—The provisions of Part II shall apply in relation to parliamentary constituencies in the Union territory of Delhi as they apply in relation to assembly constituencies.]

PART IV

Electoral rolls for Council constituencies

30. Rolls for local authorities' constituencies.—(1) The roll for every local authorities' constituency shall be prepared and maintained in such form, manner and language or languages as the Election Commission may direct.

(2) The provisions of ²[rule 26 except sub-rules (3) and (4) thereof and rule 27] shall apply in relation to local authorities' constituencies as they apply in relation to assembly constituencies:

Provided that an application for the inclusion of a name shall be made in Form 17:

³[Provided further that where an application referred to in sub-rule (1) of rule 26 is received by the electoral registration officer, he shall refer such application to the chief executive officer, of the local authority concerned and on receipt of information in relation thereto from the chief executive officer, the electoral registration officer shall act in accordance with clause (d) of sub-section (2) of section 27.]

31. Rolls for graduates' and teachers' constituencies.—(1) The roll for every graduates' or teachers' constituency shall be prepared in such form, manner and language, or languages as the Election Commission may direct.

(2) The roll shall be divided into convenient parts which shall be numbered consecutively.

1. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 2577, dated the 6th September, 1963, for Part III.

2. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 3661, dated the 12th October, 1964, for "rules 26 and 27".

3. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 814 (E), dated the 3rd September, 1987, for the second proviso.

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 (Statutory Rules and Order)

(3) For the purpose of preparing the roll the registration officers shall, on or before the 1st ¹[October], issue a public notice calling upon every person entitled to be registered in that roll to send to, or deliver at his office before the 7th day of ¹[November] next following an application in Form 18 or Form 19, as the case may be, for inclusion of his name:

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²[Provided that for the purpose of preparing the roll for the first time for the Legislative Council of the State of Madhya Pradesh, the references to the 1st October and the 7th day of November shall be construed as references to the 31st December, 1966 and the 7th day of February, 1967, respectively.]

(4) The said notice shall be published in two newspapers having circulation in the constituency and republished in them once on or about the 15th ¹[October] and again on or about the 25th ¹[October]:

²[Provided that in relation to the preparation of the roll for the first time for the Legislative Council of the State of Madhya Pradesh, the references to the 15th October and the 25th October shall be construed as references to the 15th January and 25th January, 1967, respectively.]

³[(4A) The provisions of sub-rule (3) and sub-rule (4) shall apply in relation to revision of the roll for every graduates' or teachers' constituency under sub-section (2) (a) (ii) of section 21 of the Act as they apply in relation to the preparation of such roll subject to the modification that references to the 1st October and the 7th day of November in sub-rule (3) and references to the 15th October and 25th October in sub-rule (4) shall be construed respectively as references to such dates, as may be specified by the Election Commission in relation to each such revision.]

(5) The provisions of rules 10 to 27 except clause (c) of sub-rule (1) and clause (c) of sub-rule (2) of rule 13 shall apply in relation to graduates' and teachers' constituencies as they apply in relation to assembly constituencies:

Provided that a claim or an application for the inclusion of a name shall be made in Form 18 or Form 19 as may be appropriate.

4*

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PART V

Preservation and disposal of Electoral Rolls

32. Custody and preservation of rolls and connected papers.—(1) After the roll for a constituency has been finally published, the following papers shall be kept in the office of the registration officer or at such other place as the chief electoral officer may by order specify until the expiration of one year after the completion of the next intensive revision of that roll:—

- (a) one complete copy of the roll;
- (b) statements submitted to the chief electoral officer under rule 7;
- (c) statements submitted to the registration officer under rule 8;
- (d) register of enumeration forms;
- (e) applications in regard to the preparation of the roll;
- (f) manuscript parts prepared by enumerating agencies and used for compiling the roll;
- (g) papers relating to claims and objections;

1. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 2315, dated the 21st September, 1961.

2. Ins. by Notifn. No. S.O. 3963, dated the 24th December, 1966.

3. Ins. by Notifn. No. S.O. 1127, dated the 1st April, 1967.

4. Second proviso omitted by Notifn. No. S.O. 814(E), dated the 3rd September, 1987.

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 (Statutory Rules and Order)

- (h) papers relating to appeals under rule 23; and
- (i) applications under sections 22 and 23.

(2) One complete copy of the roll for each constituency duly authenticated by the registration officer shall also be kept in such place as the chief electoral officer may specify ¹[as permanent board].

33. Inspection of electoral rolls and connected papers.—Every person shall have the right to inspect the election papers referred to in rule 32 and to get attested copies thereof on payment of such fee as may be fixed by the chief electoral officer.

34. Disposal of electoral rolls and connected papers.—(1) The papers referred to in rule 32 shall, on the expiry of the period specified therein, and subject to such general or special directions, if any, as may be given by the Election Commission in this behalf, be disposed of in such manner as the chief electoral officer may direct.

(2) Copies of the electoral roll for any constituency in excess of the number required for deposit under rule 32 and for any other public purpose shall be disposed of at such time and in such manner as the Election Commission may direct and until such disposal shall be made available for sale to the public.

²[PART VI

Miscellaneous

35. Use of old Forms.—If, at any time, during a period of six months from the date on which any amendment to a form for making any claim, objection or other application to the registration officer under these rules takes effect, a person makes, such claim, objection or, as the case may be, other application in the Form as it stood before such amendment, the registration officer shall deal with such claim, objection or other application and he may, for this purpose, require such person, by notice in writing, to furnish such additional information (being the information which would have been furnished if the amended Forms had been used) within such reasonable time as may be specified in the notice.]

1. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 814(E), dated the 3rd September, 1987, for certain words.
 2. Ins. by Notifn. No. S.O. 1128(E), dated the 29th December, 1987.

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
 (Statutory Rules and Order)

FORM 1

(See rule 7)

12

Statement as to place of Ordinary Residence by a Person holding a Declared Office

Full name

¹[Father's/Mother's/Husband's name]

Age.....years.

Office held

I hereby declare that I am a citizen of India and that but for my holding the above-mentioned office, I would have been ordinarily resident at (full postal address).....

.....

.....

I further declare that my wife (name)aged.....years, ordinarily resides with me
²[and is a citizen of India].

This cancels any previous statement as to place of ordinary residence made by me.

Place.....

Date.....

Signature.....

¹ Subs. by Notifn. No. S. O. 303(E), dated the 8th May, 1993, for certain words.

² Ins. by Notifn. No. S. O. 2315, dated the 21st September, 1961.

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
 (Statutory Rules and Order)

¹[FORM 2
 (See rule 7)]

Statement as to place of Ordinary Residence by a member of the Armed Forces

I hereby declare that I am a citizen of India and that but for my service in the Armed Forces I would have been ordinarily resident at—

House No.....

13

Street/Mohalla.....

Locality.....

Town/Village.....

Post Office.....

Police Station.....

Tehsil/Taluka.....

District.....

State.....

My full name.....

Service No.....Rank.....

Service/Corps/Regiment.....

Name and address of record office.....

Age last birthday.....years.

*I further declare that my wife.....age.....years,
ordinarily resides with me and is a citizen of India.

This cancels any previous statement as to ordinary place of residence made by me.

Date.....20 ..
(Signature)

Record Office	Verified and found correct
Folio No.....	(Signature).....
Place.....	(Designation).....
Date.....	Officer-in-charge, Records.

(For use in the Election Office)

Statement received on the 199 .

Registered in the electoral roll for the.....Assembly Constituency (No...). Service
voters' part, at S. No.....
Date.....20 ..²[Electoral Registration Officer].]

*Delete if not applicable.

1. Subs. by Notifn. No. S. O. 3667, dated the 12th October, 1964, for Form 2.
2. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 3874, dated the 15th December, 1966, for "Chief Electoral Officer".

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

¹[FORM 2A
(See rule 7)]

Statement as to place of Ordinary Residence by a member of an armed police force of a State, who is serving outside that State

I hereby declare that I am a citizen of India and that but for my service outside the State in the Armed Force mentioned below, I would have been ordinarily resident at: —

14

House No.....

Street/Mohalla.....

Locality.....

Town/Village.....

Post Office.....

Police Station.....

Tehsil/Taluka.....

District.....

State.....

My full name..... Rank

Buckle No.....

Name of armed police force.....

Name and address of the officer of the Commandant.....

Age last birthday.....years.

*I further declare that my wife.....age.....years,
ordinary reside with me and is a citizen of India.

This cancels any previous statement as to ordinary place of residence made by me.

Date.....20

(Signature)

*Delete if not applicable.
Commandant's Office
Folio No.....
Place.....
Date.....

Verified and found correct

(Signature).....
(Designation).....
Commandant.

(For use in the Election Office)
Statement received on the20 ..

Registered in the electoral roll for the.....Assembly Constituency (No...). Service
voters' part, at S. No.....
Date.....20

Officer].]

²[Electoral Registration

1. Ins. by Notifn. No. S. O. 4371, dated the 21st October, 1964.

2. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 3874, dated the 15th December, 1966, for "Chief Electoral Officer".

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

FORM 3

(See rule 7)

15

Statement as to place of Ordinary Residence by a person employed under the Government of India in a post outside India

Full name.....

¹[Father's/Mother's/Husband's name].....

Age.....years.

Description of post

held outside India.....

I hereby declare that I am a citizen of India and that but for my being employed under the Government of India in the above-mentioned post, I would have been ordinarily resident at (full postal address)

I further declare that my wife (name)aged.....years, ordinarily resides with me ²[and is a citizen of India].

This cancels any previous statement as to place of ordinary residence made by me.

Place.....

Signature.....

Date.....

Verified

Signature.....

Designation of the
Head of Office.....

Place.....

Date.....

(For use in the Election Office)

Statement received on the.....199 .

Registered in the electoral roll for the.....Assembly Constituency
(No.....). Service voters' part, at S.No.....

Date.....

³[Electoral Registration Officer].

1. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 303(E), dated the 8th May, 1993, for certain words.

2. Ins. by Notifn. No. S.O. 2315, dated the 21st September, 1961.

3. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 3874, dated the 15th December, 1966, for "Chief Electoral Officer".

*Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)*

FORM 4

*(See rule 8)
Letter of request*

Place.....

Date.....

16

To

The occupant of.....

Sir/Madam,

The preparation of the electoral roll for the Assembly Constituency in which you are residing has been taken in hand. It will greatly facilitate my work if you will kindly complete the statement below after reading the attached instructions and hand it over to my assistant who will call for it.

Electoral Registration Officer of the.....

Assembly Constituency.

STATEMENT

Names and particulars of adult citizens ordinarily residing in the above premises

Name of citizen	Particulars as to	¹ [Father or Mother or Husband	² [Age on 1 st January/April, 19...
-----------------	-------------------	---	---

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.

etc.

Signature.....

Date.....

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Enter the names of all persons who have completed ²[18 years of age on or before the 1st of January/April] of this year and who are ordinarily residing in the premises.
 2. Only the names of these who are citizens of India should be entered.
 3. Enter against Serial No. 1 in the first column, the name of the head or other senior member of the family, provided he or she has the qualifications mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 above.
 4. "Ordinarily residing" does not mean that the person should be actually in the house when you are filling in the form. The persons who normally live in the house should be included even though they may be temporarily absent, e.g., on a journey or on business or in hospital. On the other hand, a guest or visitor, who normally lives elsewhere but happens to be in the house at the time should not be included.
 5. All ordinary residents of the house should be included, whether they are members of the family or not. But do not enter the name of any person who is a member of the Armed Forces of India or is employed under the Government of India in a post outside India or the name of such person's wife if she ordinarily resides with him.
 6. In the case of every male citizen, enter in the second column the name of his father preceded by the words "son of".
 7. In the case of every female citizen, enter in the second column-
 - (i) the name of the husband preceded by the words "wife of", if she be married;
 - (ii) the name of the late husband preceded by the words "widow of", if she be a widow; and
 - (iii) the name of the ¹[Father or Mother] preceded by the words "daughter of", if she be unmarried.
 8. In the third column, enter the age of the citizen as accurately as possible, giving only the number of complete years and ignoring the months.
- ³[Note: For preparation/revision of rolls in 1989, omit "January" and retain "April". For preparation/revision of rolls in any other year, omit "April" and retain "January"].

¹ Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 303(E), dated the 8th May, 1993, for certain words.

² Subs. by Notifn. No. S. O. 409(E), dated the 6th June, 1989, for certain words.

³ Ins., *ibid*.

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¹[FORM 5

(See rule 10)

Notice of publication of electoral roll in draft

To

The Electors of the.....constituency.

Notice is hereby given that the electoral roll has been prepared in accordance with the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, and a copy thereof is available for inspection at my office, and at.....during office hours.

The qualifying date for the preparation of the electoral roll is.....

If, with reference to the above said qualifying date, there be any claim for the inclusion of a name in the roll or any objection to the inclusion of name or any objection to particulars in any entry, it should be lodged on or before the.....19....., in Form 6, 7 or 8 as may be appropriate.

Every such claim or objection should either be presented in my office or to..... or sent by post to the address given below so as to reach me not later than the aforesaid date.

.....
Electoral Registration Officer,

(Address).....]

Date.....

1. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 814(E), dated the 3rd September, 1987, for Form No. 5.

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

¹[FORM 6
[See rules 13(1) and 26]

Application for inclusion of name in electoral roll				
<p>To</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Electoral Registration Officer, -----Assembly/Parliamentary[£] Constituency.</p> <p>Sir,</p> <p>I request that my name be included in the electoral roll for the above Constituency. Particulars in support of my claim for inclusion in the electoral roll are given below:</p>				
I. Applicant's details		Name		Surname (if any)
Age as on 1 st January..... [#]		Years :	Months :	Sex (male/female) :
Date of birth, if known :		Day :	Month :	Year :
Place of birth :		Village/Town :		
		District :		State :
*Father's Name		Name		Surname(if any)
Mother's Name				
Husband's Name				
II. Particulars of place of ordinary residence (Full address):				
House / Door number :				
Street/ Area/Locality/Mohalla/ Road :				
Town / Village :				
Post Office :				Pin Code :
Tehsil/Taluka/Mandal/Thana :				
District :				

[£] In case of Union territories having no Legislative Assembly and the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

[#] Please give the year *i.e.* 2003, 2004, etc.

* Strike out the inappropriate alternative.

.....(Perforation).....
Receipt for application

Received the application in Form 6 of **Shri/Shrimati/Kumari

**Address.....

Date.....

Signature of the officer receiving the application on
behalf of the Electoral Registration Officer
(Address).....

**To be filled in by the applicant.

1. Subs. by Notifn. No. S.O. 934(E), dated the 18th August, 2003, for Forms 6, 7, 8 and 8A.

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960s
(Statutory Rules and Order)

<p>III. Details of members(s) of applicant's family already included in the current electoral roll of the Constituency:</p>

19

Name	Relationship with applicant	Part number of the roll of the constituency	Serial number in that Part	Elector's photo identity card (if issued) number
1.				
2.				

IV. Declaration:
I hereby declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief-

(i) I am a citizen of India; (ii) I am ordinarily resident at the address given in para II above since..... (date, month, year); (iii) I have not applied for the inclusion of my name in the electoral roll for any other constituency; (iv) my name has not already been included in the electoral roll for this or any other assembly constituency;

or

* my name may have been included in the electoral roll forconstituency in State in which I was ordinarily resident earlier at the address mentioned below and, if so, I request that the same may be deleted from that electoral roll.

Full address (Earlier place of ordinary residence):

	Electors photo identity card (if issued) number;....., date of issue.....

Place: _____
Date: _____ *Signature or thumb impression of the applicant*

Note.- Any person who makes a statement or declaration which is false and which he either knows or believes to be false or does not believe to be true, is punishable under section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (43 of 1950).

*Strike out the inappropriate alternative.

Details of action taken (To be filled by Electoral Registration Officer of the constituency)
--

The application of Shri/Smt./ Km.....for inclusion of name in the electoral roll in Form 6 has been accepted*/rejected*.

Detailed reasons for *acceptance [under or in pursuance of rule 18*/20*/26(4) *][£] or rejection [under or in pursuance of rule 17*/20*/26(4) [£]] :

Place:	Signature of Electoral	(Seal of the Electoral
Date:	Registration Officer	Registration Officer)

[£] During continuous updating after final publication of electoral roll.

* Strike out the inappropriate alternative.

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

FORM 7
[See rule 13(2) and 26]

<i>Application for objecting inclusion or seeking deletion of name in electoral roll</i>				
<p>To</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Electoral Registration Officer, -----Assembly/[£] Parliamentary Constituency.</p> <p>Sir,</p> <p>@ I object to the proposed inclusion of the name of the undermentioned person in the electoral roll for the above constituency. Particulars in support of my objection are given below:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <p>@ I submit that the entry relating to *myself/*the person named below is required to be deleted for the reasons stated hereunder:</p>				
I. @Details of person inclusion of whose name is objected to:		Name		Surname (if any)
@ Details of person whose entry is to be deleted:		Part number of electoral roll in which his/her name is included:	His/her serial number in that part:	Elector's photo identity card (if issued) number:
#II.	<i>Details of objector</i>	Name		Surname (if any)
Sex (male/female):		Part number of electoral roll in which objector's name is included:		His/her serial number in that part:
*Father's Name		Name		Surname (if any)
Mother's Name				
Husband's Name				
III. Particulars of place of ordinary residence of @objector/@person seeking deletion. (Full address):				
House / Door number:				
Street/Area/Locality/Mohalla/Road:				
Town / Village:				
Post Office:				Pin Code :
Tehsil/Taluka/Mandal/Thana:				
District:				

[£] in case of Union territories having no Legislative Assembly and the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

@ First alternative will be relevant during preparation/revision of electoral roll. Second alternative will be relevant

during continuous updating after final publication of electoral roll. Strike out the inappropriate alternative.

* Strike out the inappropriate alternative.

Part-II not to be filled where applicant seeks deletion of entry relating to himself.

.....(Perforation).....

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

Receipt for application

21

Received the application in Form 7 of **Shri/Shrimati/Kumari

** Address

Date.....

Signature of the officer receiving the application on
behalf of the Electoral Registration Officer
(Address).....
.....

**To be filled in by the applicant.

IV. Reason(s) for objection/*deletion:
V. Declaration:
I hereby declare that the facts and particulars mentioned above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Place:
Date:
Signature or thumb impression of the applicant

Note.- Any person who makes a statement or declaration which is false and which he either knows or believes to be false or does not believe to be true, is punishable under section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (43 of 1950).

*Strike out the inappropriate alternative.

Details of action taken (To be filled by Electoral Registration Officer of the constituency)
--

The application of Shri/Smt./Km.....*objecting to inclusion/* seeking deletion of name of Shri/Smt/Km.....in the electoral roll in Form 7 has been accepted*/rejected*.

Detailed reasons for *acceptance [under or in pursuance of rule 18*/20*/26(4) *] or rejection [under or in pursuance of rule 17*/20*/26(4)£]:

Place: Signature of Electoral
Date: Registration Officer

(Seal of the Electoral
Registration Officer)

* Strike out the inappropriate alternative.

£ During continuous updating after final publication of electoral roll.

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

FORM 8
[See rules 13(3) and 26]

Application for correction to particulars entered in electoral roll				
<p>To The Electoral Registration Officer, -----Assembly/Parliamentary[£]constituency.</p> <p>Sir,</p> <p>I request that entry relating to myself appearing in the electoral roll for the above constituency is not correct and it should be corrected. Correct particulars in support of my request are given below:-</p>				
I. Applicant's details		Name		Surname (if any)
Part number of electoral roll:		Serial number in that part:		
Age as on 1 st January.....#	Years:	Months:	Sex (male/female):	
Date of birth, if known:	Day:	Month:	Year:	
<u>*Father's</u> <u>Mother's</u> Name Husband's		Name		Surname (if any)
II. Particulars of place of ordinary residence (Full address):				
House / Door number:				
Street/ Area/Locality/Mohalla/ Road:				
Town / Village:				
Post Office:			Pin Code: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	
Tehsil/Taluka/Mandal/Thana:				
District:				
III. Details of Electors' photo identity card (if issued, in this or some other constituency)				
Electors' photo identity card number:				
Name of the constituency:				
IV. Details of entries to be corrected:				
*My name/*Age/*Father's/Mother's/Husband's name/*Sex/Address/*Electors' photo identity card number may be corrected in terms of information provided in this Form above.				
Place:				
Date:		Signature or thumb impression of the elector		

Note.- Any person who makes a statement or declaration which is false and which he either knows or believes to be false or does not believe to be true, is punishable under section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (43 of 1950).

[£] in case of Union territories having no Legislative Assembly and the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Please give the year i.e. 2002, 2003, etc.

* Strike out the inappropriate alternative.

.....(Perforation).....

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

Receipt for application

23

Received the application in Form 8 of **Shri/Shrimati/Kumari

** Address

Date.....

Signature of the officer receiving the application on
behalf of the Electoral Registration Officer
(Address).....
.....

**To be filled in by the applicant.

Details of action taken

(To be filled by Electoral Registration Officer of the constituency)

The application of Shri/Smt./ Km.....for correction of entry
in the electoral roll in Form 8 has been accepted*/rejected*.Detailed reasons for *acceptance [under or in pursuance of rule 18*/20*/26(4)[£]] or rejection [under or in
pursuance of rule 17*/20*/26(4)[£]] :

Place:

Signature of Electoral
Registration Officer(Seal of the Electoral
Registration Officer)]

Date:

* Strike out the inappropriate alternative.

£ During continuous updating after final publication of electoral roll.

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

FORM 8A
[See rules 13(4) and 26]

Application for transposition of entry in electoral roll				
<p>To The Electoral Registration Officer, -----Assembly/Parliamentary[£] Constituency.</p> <p>Sir,</p> <p>I request that the entry in the electoral roll for the above mentioned constituency relating to *myself/*person named below should be transposed to the relevant part of the roll in this constituency. Particulars of the entry to be transposed are given below:</p>				
I.	Details of person whose entry is to be transposed:	Name		Surname (if any)
		Part number of electoral roll in which his/her name is included:	His/her serial number in that part:	Elector's photo identity card (if issued) number:
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <u>*Father's</u> <u>Mother's</u> <u>Husband's</u> </div> <div style="width: 30%;">Name</div> </div>		Name		Surname (if any)
<p>II. Particulars of present place of ordinary residence (Full address):</p> <p>House / Door number:</p> <p>Street/ Area/Locality/Mohalla/ Road:</p> <p>Town / Village:</p> <p>Post Office: Pin Code: </p> <p>Tehsil/Taluka/Mandal/Thana:</p> <p>District:</p>				
III.	Period of continuous residence at the above address on the date of application		Years:	Months:
<p>IV. Part number to which the entry has to be transposed (if known):</p>				
@V.	Details of applicant	Name		Surname (if any)
		Part number of electoral roll in which his/her name is included:	His/her serial number in that part:	Elector's photo identity card (if issued) number:

£ In case of Union territories having no Legislative Assembly and the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

* Strike out the inappropriate alternative.

@ Part V not to be filled where applicant seeks transposition of entry relating to himself.

.....(Perforation).....

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

Receipt for application

Received the application in Form 8A of **Shri/Shrimati/Kumari

25

** Address.....
Date.....

Signature of the officer receiving the application on
behalf of the Electoral Registration Officer
(Address).....
.....

VI. Declaration:

I hereby declare that the facts and particulars mentioned above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Place:

Date:

Signature or thumb impression of the applicant

Note.- Any person who makes a statement or declaration which is false and which he either knows or believes to be false or does not believe to be true, is punishable under section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (43 of 1950).

Details of action taken

(To be filled by Electoral Registration Officer of the constituency)

The application of Shri/Smt./ Km.....for transposition of entry relating to himself/herself/Shri/Smt./Km..... in the electoral roll in Form 8A has been accepted*/rejected*.

Detailed reasons for acceptance or rejection [under rule 26(4)]*:

Place:

Date:

Signature of Electoral
Registration Officer

(Seal of the Electoral
Registration Officer)]

* Strike out the inappropriate alternative.

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

FORM 8B
[See rule 26]

Application for deletion of entry in electoral roll

To

The Electoral Registration Officer,
-----Assembly/Parliamentary[£] Constituency.

Sir,

I submit that the entry relating to the person named below in the electoral roll for the above Constituency is required to be deleted for the reasons stated hereunder :

I.	Details of person whose entry is to be deleted	1. Title [§]	2. First and middle name		3. Last name
		4. Part number of electoral roll in which his / her name is included :	5. His/her serial number in that part	6. Electors' Photo Identity Card number	
II. (a) Details of relation of person whose entry is to be deleted (Father/Mother/Husband)		7. Title [§]	8. First and middle name		9. Last name
(b) Relationship with the person whose entry is to be deleted. Father/Mother/Husband :					
III. Reasons for objection					
a)*		Death on		10. Day :	11. Month :
b)*		No longer ordinarily resident since		13. Day :	14. Month :
c)*		*Not entitled to be registered for the reason.			
IV.	a) Objector's details :	16. Title [§]	17. First and middle name		18. Last name
	19. Sex (male/female) :	20. Part number of electoral roll in which objector's name is included :		21. His/her serial number in that part:	
b)	Details of relation of objector (Father/Mother/Husband)	22. Title [§]	23. First and middle name		24. Last name
(c) Relationship with objector. Father/Mother/Husband :					
V. Particulars of place of ordinary residence of objector (Full address) :					
25. House / Door number:					
26. Street/ Mohalla/ Road / Gali:					
27. Area / Locality:					
28. Town / Village:					
29. Post Office:				30. Pin Code:	
31. Police Station:					
32. Tehsil / Taluka [@] :					
33. Block / Mandal (for Village) [@] :					
34. District:					

[£] in case of Union territories having no Legislative Assembly and the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

[§] Sh./Smt./Km./Dr. etc.

* Strike out the inappropriate alternative.

[@] May not be applicable in Metropolitan Areas.

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

Details of action taken (To be filled by electoral registration officer of the constituency)				
Revision identity	Constituency number and name			
The application of Shri./Smt. /Km.....for transposition of entry relating to himself/herself /Shri/Smt. /Km.....in the electoral roll in Form 8A has been accepted* / rejected*				
*Accepted:				
Under rule 26(4) entry of elector is transposed in the electoral roll of the Constituency	<i>Before transposition</i>		<i>After transposition</i>	
	Serial number	Part number	Serial number allotted	In Part number
*Rejected :				
Rejected, under rule 26(4) *				
Detailed reasons for acceptance or rejection [under rule 26(4)] * :				

Place :
Date :

(Seal of the Electoral
Registration Officer)

Signature of Electoral Registration Officer

* Strike out the inappropriate alternative.

28

VI. Details of objector's Photo identity Card, if issued, in this or in any other Constituency	
Elector's Photo Identity Card number :	36. Date of issue :
Constituency (Assembly / Parliamentary Constituency) Number :	Name :
VII. Declaration I hereby declare that the facts and particulars mentioned above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. Place : Date :	
<i>I am submitting the application to the Electoral Registration officer through</i>	<i>Signature or thumb impression of objector</i>

(i) Sh. /Smt./Km.(full name and address)

Or (ii) in person*, / or (iii) by Post*

.....Signature or thumb impression
of objector

	Note:— <i>Any person who makes a statement or declaration which is false and which he either knows or believes to be false or does not believe to be true, is punishable under section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.</i> * Strike out the inappropriate alternative. ‡ In case of Union territories having no Legislative Assembly and the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

*Signature or thumb impression of the person submitting the application.

29

For use of registration officer or other officer designated by him

Details of acknowledgement (To be filled by Officer receiving the application)	
Details of acknowledgement receipt issued to the applicant.	
Receipt number:	Signature of Officer receiving the application
Date of receipt:	
Remarks, if any, of the Officer receiving the application :	
Application received by:	
Name of Officer :	
Designation* :	

Place :

Date

Signature of Officer
receiving the application.

* Electoral Registration Officer/Assistant Electoral Registration Officer

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

FORM 9

[See rules 15 and 16]

List of applications for inclusion of names received in Form 6

Designated location identity (where applications have been received)	Constituency (Assembly/Parliamentary [£] Constituency):				Revision identity	
1. List number [@]	2. Period of receipt of applications (covered in this list)		From date ____/____/____ —		To date ____/____/____	
3. Place of hearing [*]						
Serial number ^s of application	Date of receipt	Name of claimant	Name of Father / Mother / Husband and (Relationship) [#]	Place of residence	Date of hearing [*]	Time of hearing [*]
1	2	3	4	5	6(a)	6(b)

[£] In case of Union territories having no Legislative Assembly and the State of Jammu and Kashmir

[@] For this revision for this designated location

^{*} Place, time and date of hearing as fixed by electoral registration officer

^s Running serial number is to be maintained for each revision for each designated location

[#] Give relationship as F= father, M=Mother and H=Husband within brackets i.e. (F), (M), (H)

Date of exhibition at designated location under rule 15(b)	Date of exhibition at Electoral Registration Officer's Office under rule 16 (b)

Continued in page.....

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

1	2	3	4	5	6(a)	6(b)

FORM 10

List of applications for objection to inclusion of names received in Form 7

Designated location identity (where applications have been received)	Constituency (Assembly/Parliamentary [£] Constituency):	Revision identity:						
1. List number [@]	2. Period of receipt of applications (covered in this list)	From date	To date					
		____/____/____ —	____/____/____					
3. Place of hearing* :								
Serial number [§] of application	Date of receipt	Name (in full) of objector	Particulars of name objected to			<i>Reasons in brief for objection</i>	Date of hearing*	Time of hearing*
			Part number	Serial number	Name in full			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8(a)	8(b)
[£] In case of Union territories having no Legislative Assembly and the State of Jammu and Kashmir. [@] For this revision for this designated location. [*] Place, time and date of hearing as fixed by electoral registration officer. [§] Running serial number is to be maintained for each revision for each designated location.						Date of exhibition at designated location under rule 15(b)	Date of exhibition at Electoral Registration Officer's Office under rule 16 (b)	

Continued in page.....

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8(a)	8(b)

[illegible]

Page number.....

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

FORM 11

[See rules 15 and 16]

List of applications for objection to particulars in entries in electoral roll received in Form 8

Designated location identity (where applications have been received)	Constituency (Assembly/Parliamentary [£] Constituency):				Revision identity:		
1. List number [@]	2. Period of receipt of applications (covered in this list)			From date	To date		
				____/____/____	____/____/____		
3. Place of hearing*							
Serial number [§] of application	Date of receipt	Name (in full) of elector objecting	Particulars of entry objected to		Nature of objection	Date of hearing*	Time of hearing*
			Part number	Serial number			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7(a)	7(b)

[£] In case of Union territories having no Legislative Assembly and the State of Jammu and Kashmir. [@] For this revision for this designated location. [*] Place, time and date of hearing as fixed by electoral registration officer. [§] Running serial number is to be maintained for each revision for each designated location.	Date of exhibition at designated location under rule 15(b)	Date of exhibition at Electoral Registration Officer's Office under rule 16 (b)

Continued in page.....

[illegible]

- (1) S.O. 2315, dated the 21st September, 1961.
- (2) S.O. 2791, dated the 24th September, 1961.
- (3) S.O. 2577, dated the 6th September, 1963.

Page number.....

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

FORM 12

[See rule 19(I)(b)(i)]

Notice of hearing of a claim

Duplicate

(Office Copy)

To

(Full name
and address
of claimant)

.....
.....
.....

Reference: Claim No.

Take notice that your claim for the inclusion of your name in the electoral roll will be heard at..... (place) at..... O'clock on the day of..... 20 . You are directed to be present at the hearing with such evidence as you may like to adduce.

Place.....

Date.....

.....
Electoral Registration Officer.

FORM 12

[See rule 19(I)(b)(i)]

Notice of hearing of a claim

Original

(To be served on the claimant)

To

(Full name and address of claimant)

Reference: Claim No.

Take notice that your claim for the inclusion of your name in the electoral roll will be heard at..... (place) at..... O'clock on the day of..... 20 . You are directed to be present at the hearing with such evidence as you may like to adduce.

Place.....

Date.....

.....
Electoral Registration Officer.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE OF NOTICE

Received notice of the date of hearing

Date.....

.....

Claimant

Certified that the notice on the claimant has been duly served by me this..... day of..... on (name)..... personally/by affixation on residence.

Place.....

Date.....

.....
Serving Officer.

N.B.—If this notice is served by post, attach the receipt here.

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

FORM 13
[See rule 19(1)(b)(ii)]
Notice to the objector

Duplicate
(Office Copy)

To
(Full name
and address
of objector)

.....
.....
.....

Reference: _____ Objection No.

Take notice that your objection to the inclusion of the name of—

.....
.....
.....

will be heard at..... (place) at.....O'clock on theday of.....20 . You are directed to be present at the hearing with such evidence as you may like to adduce.

Place.....

Date.....

.....
Electoral Registration Officer.

FORM 13
[See rule 19(1)(b)(ii)]
Notice to the objector

Original
(To be served
on the objector)

To

(Full name
and address
of objector)

.....
.....
.....

Reference: _____ Objection No.....

Take notice that your objection to the inclusion of the name of—

.....
.....
.....

will be heard at..... (place) at.....O'clock on theday of.....20 . You are directed to be present at the hearing with such evidence as you may like to adduce.

Place.....

Date.....

.....
Electoral Registration Officer.

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE OF NOTICE
Received notice of the date of hearing

Date.....

.....
Objector

Certified that the notice on the objector has been duly served by me this.....day of.....on
(name).....personally/by affixing on residence.

Place.....

Date.....

.....
Serving Officer.

N.B.— If this notice is served by post, attach the receipt here.

(Statutory Rules and Order)

FORM 14

[See rule 19(1)(b)(ii)]

¹[Notice to the person in respect of whom objection has been made]Duplicate
(Office Copy)To
(Full name and address
.....
of person
.....
objected to)Reference: _____ Objection No.
....Take notice that the objection to the inclusion of your name at Serial No. in Part of the electoral roll
for constituency filed by (Full name
and address of objector)will be heard at (place) at O'clock on the day of 19 . You are directed to be
present at the hearing with such evidence as you may like to adduce. The grounds of objection (in brief) are:—

- (a)
-
- (b)
-
- (c)

Place
Date
Electoral Registration Officer.

FORM 14

[See rule 19(1)(b)(ii)]

¹[Notice to the person in respect of whom objection has been made]Original
(To be served on the person objected to)To
(Full name and address
of person
objected to)Reference: _____ Objection No.
....Take notice that the objection to the inclusion of your name at Serial No. in Part of the electoral roll
for constituency filed by(Full name and
address of
objector)will be heard at (place) at O'clock on the day of 19 . You are directed to be present at the
hearing with such evidence as you may like to adduce. The grounds of objection (in brief) are:—

- (a)
-
- (b)
-
- (c)

Place
Date
Electoral Registration Officer.

1. Ins by Notifn. No. S. O. 814(E), dated the 3rd September, 1987.

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE OF NOTICE
Received notice of the date of hearing

Date.....

.....
Person objected to

Certified that the notice on the person, the entry relating to whose name has been objected to, has been duly served by me this..... day of..... on (name).....personally / [by affixation on residence.

Place.....

Date.....

.....
Serving Officer.

N.B.—If this notice is served by post, attach the receipt here.

FORM 15

[See rule 19(I)(b)(iii)]

Notice of hearing of an objection to particulars in an entry

Duplicate
(Office copy)

To

(Full name
and address
of objector)

.....
.....
.....

Reference:--Objection No.

Take notice that your objection to certain particulars in the entry relating to you will be heard at..... (place) at.....O'clock on the.....day of 19 . You are directed to be present at the hearing with such evidence as you may like to adduce.

Place.....

Date.....

.....
Electoral Registration Officer.

FORM 15

[See rule 19(I)(b)(iii)]

Notice of hearing of an objection to particulars in an entry

Original
(To be served on the objector)
To

(Full name
and address
of objector)

.....
.....
.....

Reference:-- Objection No.

Take notice that your objection to certain particulars in the entry relating to you will be heard at..... (place) at.....O'clock on the.....day of 19 . You are directed to be present at the hearing with such evidence as you may like to adduce.

Place.....

41

Date.....

.....
Electoral Registration Officer.

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE OF NOTICE
Received notice of the date of hearing

Date.....

.....
objector

Certified that the notice on the objector has been duly served by me this.....day
of.....on (name)..... personally/by affixation on residence.

Place.....

Date.....

.....
Serving Officer.

N.B.—If this notice is served by post, attach the receipt here.

¹[FORM 16
[See rule 22(1)]
Notice of final publication of electoral roll

It is hereby notified for public information that the list of amendments to the draft electoral roll for the..... constituency has been prepared with reference to.....as the qualifying date and in accordance with the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. A copy of the said roll together with the said list of amendments has been published and will be available for inspection at my office.

.....
Electoral Registration Officer.

Place.....

Date.....

(Address).....
.....]

FORM 17

[See rule 30]

Application for inclusion of name in the electoral roll for a local authorities' constituency

To

The Electoral Registration Officer,
..... (Local Authorities) Constituency.

Sir,

I am a member ofwhich is a constituent local authority exercising jurisdiction within the limits of the.....local authorities' constituency. I am therefore entitled to be registered as an elector in the said constituency, and request that my name be included in the electoral roll thereof.

My address is:

.....
.....
.....

Yours faithfully,

1. Subs. by Notifn. No. S. O. 814(E), dated the 3rd September, 1987, for Form 16.

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

¹[FORM 18
(See rule 31)]

Claim for inclusion of name in the electoral roll for a graduates' constituency

To

The Electoral Registration Officer,
..... (graduate) Constituency.

Sir,

I request that my name be registered in the electoral roll for the.....(graduate's) Constituency.

The particulars are:—

Name (in full).....Sex.....
 Father's/Mother's/Husband's name (in full)
 Qualification
 Occupation
 House address (Place of ordinary residence)
 House No.
 Street/Mohalla
 Town/Village
 Post Office
 Police Station/Tehsil/Taluka/Mouza
 District
 Age.....

2. *I am a graduate of the.....University having passed the degree/diploma examination in the year

OR

*I am in possession of a diploma/certificate in.....which is a qualification equivalent to that of a graduate of a University in India having passed the examination for the diploma/certificate in the year.....

3. In support of my claim as being a graduate/in possession of the above diploma/certificate. I submit herewith.....

4. **My name has not been included in the electoral roll for this or any other graduates' constituency.

OR

**My name has been included in the electoral roll for the.....graduates' constituency under the address given below and I request that it be deleted from that roll:—

.....

5. I declare that I am a citizen of India and that all the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge.

Place.....

Date.....

.....
 Signature of claimant.

NOTE : Any person who makes a statement or declaration which is false and which the either knows or believes to be false or does not believe to be true is punishable under section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

*Strike out the paragraph not applicable.

**Strike off the inappropriate alternative.

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1. Subs. by Notifn. No. S. O. 814(E), dated the 3rd September, 1987, for Form 18.

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

.....(Perforation).....
.....

Intimation of action taken

The application in Form 18 of
Shri/Shrimati/Kumari.....address.....has been—

(a) accepted and the name of Shri/Shrimati/Kumari.....has been registered at Serial No.....in
Part No.....

(b) rejected for the reason.....
.....

Date.....

Electoral Registration Officer.
(Address).....
.....
.....

.....(Perforation).....
Receipt for application

Received the application in Form 18 from Shri/
Shrimati/Kumari*.....address*.....

Date.....

Electoral Registration Officer.
(Address).....
.....
.....

*To be filled in by the applicant.

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

¹[FORM 19

[See rule 31]

Claim for inclusion of name in the electoral roll for a teachers' constituency

To

The Electoral Registration Officer,
.....(Teachers') Constituency.

Sir,

I request that my name be registered in the electoral roll for the.....(teachers') Constituency.

The particulars are:—

Name (in full).....Sex.....

Father's/Mother's/Husband's name (in full).....

House address (Place of ordinary residence):—

House No.....

Street/Mohalla.....

Town/Village.....

Post Office.....

Police Station/Tehsil/Taluka/Mouza

District

Age

2. During the last six years I have been engaged in teaching for a total period of more than three years as follows:--

Name of Educational Institution	From (Date)	To (Date)	Period
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

In support of the above I submit herewith.....
.....
.....
.....

3. *My name has not been included in the electoral roll for this or any other teachers' constituency.

OR

*My name has been included in the electoral roll for the.....teachers' constituency under the address given below and I request that it be deleted from that roll:—

.....
.....
.....

4. I declare that I am a citizen of India and that all the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Place.....

Date.....

.....
Signature of claimant.

NOTE:-Any person who makes a statement or declaration which is false and which he either knows or believes to be false or does not believe to be true is punishable under section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

*Strike out the paragraph not applicable.

Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
(Statutory Rules and Order)

.....(Perforation).....

Intimation of action taken

The application in Form 19 of Shri/Shrimati/Kumari.....
address.....

.....has been—

(a) accepted and the name of Shri/Shrimati/Kumari..... has been
registered at Serial

No..... in Part No.....

(b) rejected for the reason.....

Date.....

Electoral Registration Officer
(Address).....

.....
.....]

.....(Perforation).....

Receipt for application

Received the application in Form 19 from Shri/Shrimati/ Kumari*.....

address*.....

Date.....

Electoral Registration Officer
(Address).....

.....]

*To be filled in by the applicant.

Preshant Kushan

(TRUE COPY)

Note explaining process of annual revision/updation of Electoral Rolls along with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

widest possible transparency and disclosure; house to house survey; physical field verification; display and sharing of list of claims and objections; supervision and random checking; sharing of draft and final electoral roll with political parties; rigorous SoP for deletion of names -

The creation, maintenance and purification of ER- a core constitutional responsibility of the ECI – has a well-defined and meticulously followed legacy over decades. The credibility of the process is organically linked to data/facts over several revisions and continuous updation of previous data sets. The process is ensconced in a watertight statutory scheme which is rule based.

The Commission firmly believes that an inclusive, healthy, pure & transparently prepared electoral roll is the foundation of free, fair and credible election. Therefore, the Commission makes all out efforts to make the electoral roll pure, healthy and inclusive within the given framework of Article 324 of the Constitution of India, provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, Registration of the Electors Rules, 1960 and the extant instructions issued by the Commission from time to time.

All political parties are fully aware of the SoPs for Special Summery Revision (SSR) and the special measures taken during SSR. Additions and deletions take place after due enquiry, in full public view and with participation of political parties at every stage of the process. Being an annual revision exercise, only changes during the period of revision get updated that too after sharing relevant details with political parties and the public at large.

The process of revision of electoral rolls:

The electoral roll is prepared in accordance with the well-defined protocol & procedure and following the principle of natural justice by providing reasonable opportunity to the electors and all stakeholders, political parties in particular. The electoral roll is in the state of continuous updation throughout the year except during election in a constituency for a period from the last date of filing nomination to completion of election process. The Commission ensures utmost transparency at each stage of revision of roll so that people can beforehand check entries in electoral roll and can file any claim or objection, to avoid any post facto objection or grievances. In case of deletion, notice is issued and an opportunity given to electors for filing an objection and hearing is given.

All GE to LAs are specifically preceded by Special Summary Revision (SSR) precisely to allow all stakeholders to be on notice about the upcoming general election. This is an additional measure over and above annual revision of electoral rolls which in any case takes place. All the Political Parties have been familiar with SSR guidelines, formats and processes. ECI has also provided for appointment of Booth Level Agents (BLA) by recognized political parties as an equal opportunity & extra facilitation to them ensuring utmost transparency in the process.

Every entry in ER database, either by way of addition/ deletion/ transportation, is credible, as it is based on voluntariness of the citizen to enroll and an open disclosure and

public hearing to objections, if any and, thereafter the entries are available for perpetual scrutiny and legal challenge.

For the sake of clarity, the cycle of the electoral roll revision process for a calendar year is illustrated in the **diagram below**.



In context of the preparation and updation of electoral rolls, some questions which may be frequently asked (**FAQs**) and replies thereto are given below to remove any doubts arising in the minds of political parties, electors and the general public.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Special Summary Revision (SSR)

Q1. What is 'Special Summery Revision'?

Ans. As per Rule 25(1) of RER 1960, there are following types of revision-

- ✓ Intensive revision.
- ✓ Summery revision.
- ✓ Partly intensive and partly summery.

Now a days, the Commission orders Summery revision with certain special characteristics, with intensive pre-revision activities like house-to-house verification, rationalization of polling stations, special campaign dates etc., hence it is called Special Summery Revision.

Q2. What are the stages of Special Summery Revision of ER?

Ans. The SSR of electoral rolls involves two main stages:

- (i) **Pre-revision activities** mainly include training of official, House-to-House verification by the Booth Level Officers (BLO) for identification of un-enrolled eligible electors, identification of discrepancies, removal of multiple/shifted/dead electors, standardization of addresses, rationalization and modification of polling stations, updation of control tables, preparation of website, integration of supplements and preparation of draft roll.
- (ii) **Revision activities:** The actual revision starts with the publication of Draft electoral roll. With the publication of draft electoral roll, the ERO invites claims and objections from all eligible citizens and after processing of such applications, with due procedure, inclusion/deletions/correction of entries is carried out by ERO. Discrepancies already identified by BLOs during the pre-revision activities are also taken-up for removal during this period. All the inclusions, deletions and correction carried out during this period are updated in the electoral roll database and Electoral Roll is finally published on the date as per approved schedule.

Transparency & involvement of political parties in the process

Q3. What transparency measures are taken during the revision process?

Ans. The Election Commission ensures transparency during the revision of electoral rolls by providing various means for public access to the rolls and claims. Key transparency measures include:

- ✓ Free copies of the draft and final electoral rolls, along with weekly lists of claims and objections, are provided to recognized political parties to make them aware about the process to avoid any post facto objection or grievances.
- ✓ The draft and final rolls are hosted on the CEO/DEO websites.

- ✓ The rolls are displayed at designated polling stations location and ERO offices notice board.
- ✓ During continuous updation period, monthly pooling of lists of additions, deletions, and modifications are published on the website of CEO for the information of general public.
- ✓ ECI has provided the provision of the appointment of Booth Level Agents (BLA) by the recognized political parties as an extra facilitation to them ensuring utmost transparency in the process. BLAs do not interfere with the registration process and in the functioning of BLOs but only to identify and flag any discrepancy or impurity in the electoral roll of the polling station/part concerned.

Q4. How the participation of political parties and candidates is ensured in the preparation of electoral rolls?

Ans. The Election Commission has directed that election authorities shall involve representative of political parties at each stage of preparation of electoral roll and ensures utmost transparency during the whole process. Key transparency measures include:

- ✓ Periodic meetings with the representatives of recognized political parties are held at the level of CEO/DEO/ERO during SSR to apprise them about the process
- ✓ Copies of the draft and final electoral rolls are provided free of cost to recognized political parties.
- ✓ Weekly lists of all claims and objections are provided to recognized political parties during summery revision period.
- ✓ The draft and final rolls are hosted on the CEO/DEO websites.
- ✓ The rolls are displayed at designated polling station locations and EROs' offices notice board.
- ✓ Copy of ER is also made available to the general public on payment of nominal fee
- ✓ During continuous updation, monthly updates on additions, deletions, and modifications are published on the website.
- ✓ Political parties are provided with an extra facilitation to appoint their Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to interact with BLOs to ensure transparency without interfering with the registration process and flag any discrepancy or impurity in the electoral roll of the polling station/part concerned.
- ✓ During elections, soon after the last date of nomination, candidates of recognized political parties are provided free of cost with the copy of Electoral Roll to be used for the conduct of election.

Q.5. Whether political parties are involved in case of inclusion of name of electors in electoral roll?

Ans. Yes. Political parties, being the major stakeholder, are involved at each stage of revision of roll. During SSR, lists of all such applications are made available by ERO to all political parties on weekly basis. For this purpose, the ERO calls a meeting of all

political parties on regular interval and personally handover such lists to them and obtain acknowledgment. ERO also exhibits such lists on the notice board in his office. These lists are also put up on the website of CEO with adequate publicity. This is also informed to the political parties by holding regular periodic meetings with them at the level of CEO, DEO & ERO and written communications to them.

Decision on applications is taken only after atleast seven clear days' period of publishing the lists and furnishing it to the political parties.

During continuous updation period, monthly updates on additions, deletions, and modifications are published on the website of CEO.

Q6. Whether political parties are informed regarding any deletion in electoral roll?

Ans. Yes. Political parties are always kept informed with regards to all the proposed deletions. During SSR, lists of all such applications are made available by ERO to all political parties on weekly basis. For this purpose, the ERO calls a meeting of all political parties on regular interval and personally handover such lists to them and obtain acknowledgment. ERO also exhibits such lists on the notice board in his/her office. These lists are also put up on the website of CEO with adequate publicity.

Decision on claims and objections is taken by ERO only after all of the following conditions are complied with –

- i. At least seven clear days' period has passed after list of claims and objections has been published on all of the following –
 - ✓ Website of CEO, as clickable lists for each polling station
 - ✓ Notice board of ERO (In Forms 9, 10, 11, 11A and 11B of RERs 1960)
 - ✓ Notice board of polling station (In Forms 9, 10, 11, 11A and 11B of RERs 1960)
 - ✓ A personal notice has been served on the person whose name is proposed to be deleted in cases other than death cases.
- ii. At least period of seven clear days has passed after furnishing the list of claims and objections to political parties.

During continuous updation period, monthly updates on additions, deletions, and modifications are published on the website

Q7. Are the political parties involved in the process of revision of roll at each polling station level in constituency?

Ans. Yes. Political parties are involved at polling station level in each constituency in the process of revision of electoral roll.

- ✓ Political parties are encouraged to appoint their Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to interact with BLOs to ensure transparency and to flag any discrepancy or impurity in the electoral roll of the polling station/part concerned.
- ✓ Part-wise list of claims & objections is published and provided to the political parties.
- ✓ At the time of draft and final publication of roll, part-wise roll is provided free of cost to all recognized political parties.

- ✓ Representative of political parties at polling station level are informed and involved about all the crucial dates like special campaign dates etc.

Safeguards against wrongful deletions

Q8. What safeguards have been put in place to prevent wrongful deletion from the electoral roll?

Ans. To prevent wrongful deletion from the electoral roll, the following safeguards are in place:

- ✓ **Verification of Death:** Deletions due to registered death are made only after proper verification, including the submission of a death certificate.
- ✓ **Deletion Due to Death (Unregistered):** Deletions based on unregistered deaths and shifting are made only after receiving Form-7.
- ✓ **Field Verification:** Field verification report of BLO is necessary for each case of deletion. During field verification, BLO provide specific remarks about the status of shifting or death cases.
- ✓ **Shifting:** For deletions due to shifting, Form-8 must be submitted by the concerned elector. The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) will confirm the elector's previous enrolment and identity before allowing additions at a new address.
- ✓ **Notice Requirement:** In all cases of proposed deletions (except confirmed deaths), a notice must be issued to the elector concerned and served, giving them a reasonable opportunity for a hearing.
- ✓ **Cross Verification:** For deletions in areas where more than 2% of electors are removed or where the same person objects to more than 5 cases, the Electoral Registration Officer personally verifies the deletions to ensure accuracy.

The Commission vide its instruction dated 11th August, 2023 (available at ECI's website at <https://www.eci.gov.in/eci-backend/public/api/download?url=LMAhAK6sOPBp%2FNFF0iRfXbEB1EVSLT41NNLRjYNIJP1KivrUxbfqkDatmHy12e%2FzVx8flfn2ReU7TfrqYobgIm%2Fl16v78mrAsXTdPDHbqajUSsZ8HObhS0eViu3JVylrBOWZzSe4%2FHnPRnMolLpSlRp4RK1XyGKGLEKV637YC%2F%2BP7KKUGUVj2fcJdUp%2Fc4%2FM1mwlQbS%2FZYZaioux%2BxBoww%3D%3D>)

laid down detailed procedure to be followed in case of dead electors/multiple entries/Demographic similar entries/Shifting.

Q9. Whether name of an elector can be deleted without any enquiry and field verification?

Ans. No. No entry from the electoral roll can be deleted without following the due procedure. To prevent wrongful deletion from the electoral roll, the following safeguards are in place:

- ✓ **Verification of Death:** Deletions due to registered death are only made after proper verification, including the submission of a death certificate.
- ✓ **Deletion Due to Death (Unregistered):** Deletions based on unregistered deaths

and shifting are made only after receiving Form-7.

- ✓ **Field Verification:** Field verification report of BLO is necessary for each case of deletion. During field verification, BLO provide specific remarks about the status of shifting or death cases.
- ✓ **Shifting:** For deletions due to shifting, Form-8 must be submitted by the concerned elector. The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) will confirm the elector's previous enrolment and identity before allowing additions at a new address.
- ✓ **Notice Requirement:** In all cases of proposed deletions (except confirmed deaths), a notice must be issued to the elector concerned and served, giving them a reasonable opportunity for a hearing.
- ✓ **Cross Verification:** For deletions in areas where more than 2% of electors are removed or where the same person objects to more than 5 cases, the Electoral Registration Officer personally verifies the deletions to ensure accuracy.

Q10. Are the list of claims and objections prepared and displayed?

Ans. Yes.

- i. As per Rule 16 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, during Revision period, ERO prepares lists of claims and objections in form 9, 10, 11 and 11A and 11B and exhibits on a notice board in his/her office.
- ii. Besides, these lists are also put up on the website of CEO with adequate publicity so that citizens are able to lodge objections with the concerned ERO. This is also informed to the political parties by holding regular periodic meetings with them at the level of CEO, DEO & ERO and sending written communications to them.
- iii. List of claims and objections is made available by ERO to all political parties on weekly basis. For this purpose, the ERO calls a meeting of all political parties on regular interval and personally handover list of claims and objections to them and obtain acknowledgment. It is to be added that the list is incremental instead of cumulative.
- iv. Decision on claims and objections is taken by ERO only after at least seven clear days' period has passed after furnishing the list of claims and objections to political parties and list of claims and objections has been published on all of the following:
 - Website of CEO, as clickable lists for each polling station
 - Notice board of ERO (In Forms 9, 10, 11, 11A and 11B of RERs 1960)
 - Notice board of polling station location (In Forms 9, 10, 11, 11A and 11B of RERs 1960)

Measures taken during Special Summary Revision (SSR)

Q11. What special measures are taken during Special Summary Revision (SSR)?

Ans. The following measures are taken during SSR: -

1. The exercise of SSR of electoral roll consists of two stages namely, pre-revision activities and revision activities. The Commission issues detailed guidelines while ordering the SSR giving ample time to each activity during pre-revision and revision period.
2. Maximum limit of voters in each Polling station is 1500 and these on an average comprising of around 200-250 households. A Booth level officer (BLO), knowing the area is appointed for the purpose of making field verifications & collection of

enrollment forms and actual field information and report back to the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO).

3. Political parties can also appoint their Both Level Agents (BLA).
4. pre-revision activities mainly consist of training of officials, intensive House-to-House verification by BLOs for identification of un-enrolled eligible electors, identification of discrepancies, removal of multiple/shifted/dead electors, standardization of addresses, rationalization and modification of polling stations, and integration of supplements for preparation of draft electoral roll.
5. The actual revision of electoral rolls starts only with the publication of draft electoral rolls. A well established and detailed procedure is followed at each stage of revision.
6. With the publication of draft electoral roll, the ERO invites applications (claims and Objections) from all eligible citizens and after processing of such claims and objections, with due procedure, inclusion/deletions/correction of entries is carried out by him. Discrepancies already identified by BLOs during the pre-revision activities are also taken-up for removal during this period. All the inclusions, deletions and correction carried out during this period are updated in the electoral roll database. After following the due procedure, Electoral roll is finally published, on the date as per approved schedule.
7. **During Revision period, the electoral authorities take the following steps –**
 - 7.1 Preparation and display of list of claims and objections:
 - i. As per Rule 16 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, ERO prepares lists of claims and objections in form 9, 10, 11 and 11A and 11B and exhibits one copy of such lists on the notice board in his office. These lists are also put up on the website of CEO with adequate publicity so that citizens are able to see the list and lodge objections with the concerned ERO. This is also informed to the political parties by holding regular periodic meetings with them at the level of CEO, DEO & ERO and written communications to them.
 - ii. Lists of claims and objections are made available by ERO to all political parties on weekly basis. For this purpose, the ERO calls a meeting of all political parties on regular interval and personally handover list of claims and objections to them and obtain acknowledgment. It is to be added that the list is incremental instead of cumulative.
 - 7.2 Decisions on Claims and Objections: - Decision on claims and objections is taken by ERO only after all of the following conditions are complied with –
 - i. At least seven clear days' period has passed after list of claims and objections has been published on all of the following –
 - ✓ Website of CEO, as clickable lists for each polling station
 - ✓ Notice board of ERO (In Forms 9, 10, 11, 11A and 11B of RERs 1960)
 - ✓ Notice board of polling station (In Forms 9, 10, 11, 11A and 11B of RERs 1960)
 - ✓ At least period of seven clear days has passed after furnishing the list of claims and objections to political parties.

- ✓ A personal notice has been served on the person whose name is proposed to be deleted in cases other than death cases.

7.3 Supervision and Checks by Supervisor/AEROs/EROs: -

- (i) As per the practice, the ERO, after digitization of received claims & objections, deposes BLO concerned to make field verification in connection with the claim or objection. The BLO after on-spot verification submits his report to the ERO.
- (ii) There is a well-defined mechanism for supervision and check for enforcing strict accountability of the work performed by the BLO. The Supervisor who normally has 10 BLOs under his charge verifies 5% of each of the BLO's verification work under him.
- (iii) Above the Supervisors, each AERO is to verify 1% of the BLO's verification work, randomly selected from different parts under him. AERO also field checks households with more than 10 electors; abnormal gender ratio, and the first 20 polling stations with highest number of additions or deletions, under his charge. AERO also separately field check 1% of the additions and deletions, giving focus on such part of electoral rolls where proposed addition of electors is 4% over previous electoral roll. Both, accepted as well as rejected cases, are checked in those cases.
- (iv) ERO test checks the quality of disposal of claims & objections. ERO also checks 10% of the forms disposed by AEROs. Field verification is carried out if felt necessary. ERO holds regular monitoring meetings with AEROs, Supervisors and BLOs and ensure that the work is not being done in perfunctory manner. Delinquent officials are taken to task and corrective measures taken swiftly because statutorily the accountability stops with ERO and the ERO is responsible for delivering an error free roll, under overall supervision of the Commission.

7.4 Super-checking by DEO/ Roll Observer/CEO: -

- i. After passing the orders by AERO/ERO, super-checking of verified entries is done by the DEO, Roll Observers and CEO for specific number of entries as randomly selected by ERO-Net. The number of entries to be verified by DEO, Roll Observers and CEO within and up to 7 days after last date of disposal by EROs are as under:
- ii. At the level of DEO: Verification of 50 Forms (20 additions+20 deletions+10 modifications) in the district covering all ACs under his jurisdiction (or) at least 10 Forms (4 additions+4 deletions+2 modifications) in each of the ACs of the district, by table top exercise. Out of these verified Forms, field verification must be done in a minimum 10 Forms.
- iii. At the level of Roll Observers: Verification of 250 Forms (100 additions+100 deletions+50 modifications) in the assigned districts or at least 10 Forms (4 additions+4 deletions+2 modifications) in each of the assigned districts, by table top exercise. Out of these verified Forms, field verification must be done in a minimum 20 Forms. (Roll Observers are appointed during the revision of Roll from among)
- (iv) At the level of CEO: Verification of 250 Forms (100 additions+100 deletions+ 50 modifications) in the state covering all districts or at least 10 Forms (4 additions+ 4 deletions+ 2 modifications) in each district, by table top exercise. Out of these verified Forms, field verification must be done in a minimum 20 Forms.

- (v) Critical influx of Forms-6, 7, 8 in an assembly constituency is to be flagged up by the District Election Officer concerned to CEO, who in turn review the position on weekly basis for course correction, if required.

7.5 The Chart of supervisory check and super checking by the hierarchy of electoral authority may be seen below:

Roll published
at each polling
station in the
country



Monitoring Hierarchy



Booth Level Officer (BLO)



BLO Supervisor (5% of each BLO work)



AERO (1% of BLO work)



ERO (10% AEROs work)
(Generally at the level of SDM)



DEO (Superchecking of 50 forms)
(At the level of DM/DCs of
approximatelydistrict in the
country)



Roll Observer (Superchecking of 250
forms))



CEO (Superchecking of 250 forms)

Roll is also
published in
each district at
DM/DEOs
website



Commissioner
level officers of
the State



Q12. What is the relevant date for revision of electoral roll after the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 came into existence?

Ans. The Annual Summary Revision is conducted with reference to 01st January of the year as qualifying date, in which the roll is finally published. During a non-election year, no regular revision activities would be there for the subsequent qualifying dates of the year. There would be no restriction on filing of advance application with reference to the subsequent qualifying dates of summary revision in a year and such advance applications will be disposed of under continuous updation. However, before each General Elections to the State Legislative Assembly, a second SSR is also conducted w.r.t. the qualifying date, proximate to the elections.

Periodicity of revision of roll, four qualifying dates & advance applications

Q13. What is the process of updation of roll and periodicity?

Ans. The electoral roll is in the state of continuous updation throughout the year except during election in a constituency for a period from the last date of filing nominations to completion of election process.

With the amendment made in Section 14(b) of the Representation of the People Act 1950, four qualifying dates i.e., 01st January, 01st April, 01st July and 01st October have come into effect in a calendar year in place of one qualifying date of 1st January. However, the Annual Summary Revision with all pre-revision activities is conducted with reference to 01st January of the year only, in which the roll is finally published, as qualifying date. Now, any eligible citizen who has completed or is completing 18 years of age on any of the four qualifying dates of the year can submit advance application in Form-6 for registration any time in the year from the date of draft publication of electoral roll during SSR. Applications will be processed and registration will be done in the relevant quarter in which the applicant attains the qualifying age of 18 years. During a non-election year, electoral roll will be simply updated with reference to the subsequent qualifying dates of the year without any regular revision activity. There would be no restriction on filing of advance application with reference to the subsequent qualifying dates of summary revision in a year and such advance applications will be disposed of under continuous updation. However, before each General Elections to the State Legislative Assembly, a second SSR is also conducted w.r.t. the qualifying date, proximate to the elections.

Periodicity of revision of roll, four qualifying dates & advance applications

However, during a year when general election to State Assembly of House of People is due, a second Summary Revision may be conducted w.r.t. the qualifying date proximate to the said general election. There would be no restriction on filing of advance application with reference to the subsequent qualifying dates of summary revision in a year and such advance applications will be disposed of under continuous updation.

Q14. What is the relevant date for determining the age of 18 years? Can I get

myself registered as a voter on the day when I have completed 18 years of age?

Ans- With the amendment made in Section 14(b) of the Representation of the People Act 1950, four qualifying dates i.e., 01st January, 01st April, 01st July and 01st October have come into effect in place of one qualifying date of 1st January. Any eligible citizen who has completed or is completing 18 years of age on any of the four qualifying date of the year can submit advance application in Form-6 for registration any time in the year from the date of draft publication of electoral roll during SSR. Applications will be processed and registration will be done in the relevant quarter in which the applicant attains the qualifying age of 18 years.

Q15. When will the ERO process the advance claims received with respect to the subsequent qualifying dates of the year?

Ans. Advance claims received during Annual Summary Revision and also after final publication shall be disposed of by the EROs in the concerned subsequent quarters only under continuous updation, in the first month of subsequent quarter.

Supervision and checks

Q16. Is there any provision of supervision and checks by Supervisor/AEROs/EROs?

Ans. Yes.

- i. ERO, after digitization of claims & objections received by him, deputed BLO concerned to make field verification in connection with the claim or objection. The BLO after on-spot verification submits his report to the ERO.
- ii. There is a well-defined mechanism for supervision and check for enforcing strict accountability of the work performed by the BLO. The Supervisor who normally has 10 BLO under his charge verifies 5% of each of the BLO's verification work under him.
- iii. Above the Supervisors, each AERO is to verify 1% of the BLO's verification work, randomly selected from different parts under him. AERO also field checks households with more than 10 electors; abnormal gender ratio, and the first 20 polling stations with highest number of additions or deletions, under his charge. AERO also separately field check 1% of the additions and deletions, giving focus on such part of electoral rolls where proposed addition of electors is 4% over previous electoral roll. Both, accepted as well as rejected cases, are checked in those cases.
- iv. ERO test checks the quality of disposal of claims & objections by his AERO. He also checks 10% of the Forms disposed by AERO.
- v. Statutorily accountability rests with ERO who is responsible for delivering an error free roll, under overall supervision of the Commission.

Q17. What are the provisions of Super-checking by DEO/Roll Observer/CEO?

- i. After passing the orders by AERO/ERO, super-checking of verified entries is done by the DEO, Roll Observers and CEO for specific number of entries as randomly selected by ERO-Net. The number of entries to be verified by DEO, Roll Observers and CEO within and up to 7 days after last date of disposal by EROs are as under:
- ii. At the level of DEO: Verification of 50 Forms (20 additions+20 deletions+10 modifications) in the district covering all ACs under his jurisdiction (or) at least 10 Forms (4 additions+4 deletions+2 modifications) in each of the ACs of the district, by table top exercise. Out of these verified Forms, field verification must be done in a minimum 10

Forms.

- iii. At the level of Roll Observers: Verification of 250 Forms (100 additions+100 deletions+50 modifications) in the assigned districts or at least 10 Forms (4 additions+4deletions+2 modifications) in each of the assigned districts, by table top exercise. Out of these verified Forms, field verification must be done in a minimum 20 Forms.
- iv. At the level of CEO: Verification of 250 Forms (100 additions+100 deletions+ 50 modifications) in the state covering all districts or at least 10 Forms (4 additions+ 4 deletions+ 2 modifications) in each district, by table top exercise. Out of these verified Forms, field verification must be done in a minimum 20 Forms.
- v. Critical influx of Forms-6, 7, 8 in an assembly constituency is to be flagged up by the District Election Officer concerned to CEO, who in turn review the position on weekly basis for course correction, if required.

Q18. How does the Electoral Registration Officer maintain records of the disposal of registration forms?

Ans. Throughout the processing stages, including assigning of BLO, field report submissions, AERO and ERO remarks, decisions on forms by ERO, and EPIC generation, IT enabled electoral system keeps tracks of each action with corresponding timestamps and officer details. This creates a comprehensive, transparent audit trail.

Health measures and inclusivity

Q19. What are the yardsticks for analyzing the health of the electoral roll?

Ans. Health of electoral roll is closely monitored by analyzing the statistical data (electoral roll vs. projected population) mainly in respect of Electors/Population ratio, gender ratio, age-cohort imbalances etc. to bridge the gap and to maximize the enrolment of all sections of society to make the electoral roll all inclusive.

For this statistical analysis of data is done at the level of CEO/DEO/ERO, focusing the following parameters:

(A)National Average E/P ratio: -

- i. E/P ratio (against the total population)
- ii. E/P ratio (against the eligible population)

(B)National Average Gender ratio: -

- i. Gender ratio (against the total population)
- ii. Gender ratio (against the eligible population)

(C)Age-Cohort

- i. 18-19 (average increase against the total population)
(average increase in the registration of electors)
- ii. 20-29 (average increase against the total population)
(average increase in the registration of electors)

Q20. What measures have been taken to ensure an inclusive electoral roll?

Ans. The Election Commission of India (ECI) makes significant efforts to ensure that all eligible citizens, particularly marginalized groups, are enrolled in the electoral rolls. Special focus is placed on groups with lower enrolment rates, such as females, persons with disabilities (PwD), third genders, and particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs).

To address the low enrolment of young electors, particularly those aged 18-19, the Commission has appointed dedicated Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) in each assembly constituency to focus on young electors in educational institutions.

Additional initiatives include:

- ✓ **Collaboration with Educational Institutions:** Partnerships with educational boards, universities, and professional institutions to encourage enrolment.
- ✓ **Curriculum Integration:** Including chapters on democracy and elections in educational curricula.
- ✓ **Form-6 Accessibility:** Providing links to Form-6 in admission and examination forms, and through employment exchanges.
- ✓ **Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs):** Activation of ELCs with activities, certificates, and awards for performance.
- ✓ **Special Outreach Programs:** Utilizing ASHA workers and Anganwadi workers to reach out to marginalized female citizens, including those of marriageable age and newly married.
- ✓ **Targeted Outreach:** Engagement with organizations like old age homes, institutions for persons with disabilities, tribal hostels, and NGOs supporting marginalized groups.

The Commission also organizes voter awareness events and holds periodic meetings with political parties at various levels to ensure broad-based voter participation.

Facility/Citizen Centric Services

Q21. What facility/citizen centric services are available to an applicant/citizen during preparation of electoral roll?

Ans. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has introduced several measures to make the electoral roll process more convenient and accessible to citizens. **Online e-services currently offered through Voter Service Portal (VSP) are listed below:-**

- (i) Search your name in electoral roll: Elector can search his name and particulars in electoral roll, polling station details, Parliamentary Constituency wise or District wise by providing his name and relatives name or EPIC No.
- (ii) Know your BLO, ERO and DEO: User can get particulars of Booth Level Officer/Electoral Registration Officer/ /District Election Officer by entering the EPIC number.
- (iii) Access to e-roll in pdf format: User are directed to respective website of Chief Electoral Officer and can get access and view/download electoral rolls in pdf format.
- (iv) Apply online forms for the following services:
 - New Voter Registration (Form6)
 - Inclusion of names for overseas electors (Form6A)
 - Letter of Information of Aadhaar number for the purpose of electoral roll authentication (Form 6B)
 - Objection for Proposed Inclusion/ Deletion of Name in Existing Electoral Roll (Form 7)
 - Shifting of Residence/Correction of Entries in Existing Electoral Roll/ Replacement of EPIC/Marking of PwD (Form 8) In all the above services, electors are provided facility to upload scanned copies of documents and photograph.

- (v) Track status of application: An applicant can track his application already submitted online or know status by providing reference ID provided to him at the time of online registration.
- (vi) Dashboard for Citizen: Dashboard facility has been provided to all the registered electors to check the status of all his applied forms.
- (vii) E-EPIC Download: User can download electronic copy of EPIC Card (E-EPIC) by providing EPIC no or reference no of the form

Q22. Where the postal address of the Electoral Registration Officers can be obtained from?

Ans.- Postal addresses of all Electoral Registration Officers are available on the website of Election Commission of India / Chief Electoral Officers of respective State / Union Territory (link to which has been provided on the Election Commission of India website).

Q23. If I apply on line, whether I need to send physical signed copy of the form with documents to the Electoral Registration Officer's address?

Ans.- As soon as the ERO/AERO receives Form 6 filed on line, the same would be downloaded and BLO would be deputed to visit your residence for verification.

Q24. Where can the list of claims and objections be seen?

Ans. It can be seen on the website of the Chief Electoral Officer of the State concerned. It can also be seen on the notice board at the office of the Electoral Registration Officer.

Q25. How will an applicant know that his/her name is included in the electoral roll?

Ans. The decision of the Electoral Registration Officer will be communicated to the applicant by post on his address given by him in Form 6 and also by SMS on the mobile number given by him in Form 6. Electoral rolls are also available on the website of the Chief Electoral Officer of the State concerned and can be seen by anybody.

Q26. How can corrections be made if there are some mistakes in the entries in the electoral roll pertaining to electors?

Ans. For correction of mistakes in electoral rolls, an application in Form 8 is to be submitted to the Electoral Registration Officer concerned.

Q27. I have shifted from my residence where I am registered an elector to some other place. How do I ensure that I am enrolled in my new place of residence?

Ans. In case of shifting, please fill form 8 and submit to the ERO of the constituency (online/offline) where your new residence is located.

Q28. I have shifted my residence recently. I have Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) with the old address. Can I get new EPIC for the present address?

Ans. First of all, you have to ensure that you are enrolled in the electoral roll of the concerned Assembly Constituency in which your new address is located. The Electoral Registration Officer will issue a new EPIC, with the same number, of the shifted address.

Q29. My EPIC has some errors. What is the procedure to have a new EPIC with correct particulars?

Ans. You can make an application in Form 8 for rectification of the errors in your EPIC. The Electoral Registration Officer will issue a new EPIC, with the same number, after making the necessary corrections.

Q30. I have lost my old EPIC. How can I get a new EPIC?

Ans. A replacement EPIC can be issued to an elector on the receipt of Form-8 for the purpose, along with a copy of FIR/Police Report.

Q31. Who can object to the inclusion of names in electoral rolls?

Ans. Any person who is a voter in the concerned constituency may object to the inclusion of names in electoral roll on the ground that the person whose name is included or is proposed to be included is not eligible to be registered as a voter in that constituency. An objection can be made in Form 7 to the concerned ERO along with the relevant proof.

Q32. My neighbour / relative has shifted his residence to a new place but his name still continues in the electoral roll. In which Form the application for deletion of his name from the electoral roll can be made?

Ans.- For deletion of name of a shifted/dead/absentee elector, application can be made in Form 7. For deletion of a duplicate entry also, application should be made in Form 7.

Q33. When can one get registered in electoral roll. Does enrollment continue throughout the year.

Ans. The Election Commission normally orders revision of existing electoral roll every year sometime in the months of September to October and such revised rolls are finally published in first week of January of the coming year. One can submit claim application (Form 6) during period for lodging claims and objections to Electoral Registration Officer or an officer designated to receive such applications, i.e., Designated Officer. Even after final publication, the rolls are updated continuously and one can get registered anytime during the continuous updation by filing a claim application to ERO/AERO.

Q34. If I have a complaint against the order of Electoral Registration Officer, to whom I should make an appeal?

Ans. During the period of revision, you can file an appeal to the District Election Officer. In the case of the period of continuous updation, such appeal against any order of ERO will lie before the District Magistrate/Additional DM/Executive Magistrate/ District Collector of the District concerned. A further appeal against the order of Appellate Authority will lie before the Chief Electoral Officer of the State.

Condition of registration process

Q35. What are the main categories of electors in India?

Ans- There are 3 categories of electors in India: –

(i) General electors

- (ii) Oversees (NRI) electors, and
- (iii) Service Electors.

Q36. What is the condition for getting registered in electoral roll?

Ans- Applicant should be

- i. An Indian citizen,
- ii. of 18 years or more of age with reference to qualifying dates,
- iii. ordinary resident of the area concerned

Q37. Can a non-citizen of India become a voter in the electoral rolls in India?

Ans.- No. A person who is not a citizen of India is not eligible for registration as a voter in the electoral rolls in India. Even those who have ceased to be citizens of India on acquiring the citizenship of another country are not eligible to be enrolled in the electoral rolls in India.

Q38. Can a non-resident Indian settled in foreign land become an elector of electoral roll in India?

Ans. Yes. According to the provisions of Sec 20A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 by the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2010, a person who is a citizen of India and who has not acquired the citizenship of any other country and is otherwise eligible to be registered as a voter and who is absenting from his place of ordinary residence in India owing to his employment, education or otherwise is eligible to be registered as a voter in the constituency in which his place of residence in India as mentioned in his passport is located.

Q39. How can one get registered/enrolled in the electoral roll?

Ans. One has to file the application for the purpose, in prescribed Form 6(6A in case of overseas Indian), before the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO)/Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO) of the constituency within which the place of ordinary residence of the applicant falls. The application accompanied by copies of the relevant documents can be filed in person before the concerned ERO/AERO or sent by post or can be handed over to the Booth Level Officer of polling area concerned, or can be filed online through NVSP portal/VHA mobile application or on website of Chief Electoral Officer of the concerned state/ECI. While filing Form 6 on line, the copies of necessary documents should also be uploaded.

Q40. From where registration forms can be obtained?

Ans. Forms can be downloaded from the website of Election Commission of India. Forms are also available free of cost in offices of Electoral Registration Officers/Assistant Electoral Registration Officers and Booth Level Officers of the concerned polling station areas.

Q41. What documents are required to be enclosed with Form 6?

Ans. One recent passport size coloured photograph, duly affixed in the box given for the purpose in Form 6 and photo-copies of documentary proof of age and residence are required to be enclosed with Form 6. The list of documentary proof of DoB and residence which can be enclosed with Form 6 is given in the form itself and guidelines

appended thereto. For filling up Form 6, the said guidelines maybe referred to.

Q42. Is it mandatory to provide the Aadhaar details of the applicant in the field provided in the Forms for registration?

Ans. No it is a purely voluntary field and non-submission of Aadhaar details shall not be a ground for the rejection of the application by the Electoral Registration Officer. It is expected from the applicant to furnish the Aadhaar details voluntarily for the sake of purification of electoral roll.

Q43. I am a student staying at the place of study in a hostel / mess far from my native place. I want to get myself registered at my present address of residence. What should I do?

Ans.- In case of a student residing at the place of study, in hostel or mess managed by the educational institutions or elsewhere will have the option to get himself / herself registered as elector at his / her native place with his / her parents or at the address of hostel / mess where he / she is resident for the time being for pursuing his / her studies. The course pursued by the said students should be recognized by Central / State Governments / Boards / Universities / Deemed Universities and such courses should be of not less than 1 year's duration. Such student who wants to enroll himself / herself at the hostel / mess will have to attach a bonafide certificate (as per the specimen at Annexure II of Guidelines attached to Form 6 available on the website of Election Commission) from the Headmaster / Principal / Director / Registrar / Dean of his/her educational institution with Form 6

Q44. A homeless person, who is otherwise eligible for registration as an elector, does not possess documentary proof of ordinary residence. What is the procedure of verification in such case?

Ans. In case of homeless persons, the Booth Level Officer will visit the address given in Form 6 at night to ascertain that the homeless person actually sleeps at the place which is given as his address in Form 6. If the Booth Level Officer is able to verify that the homeless person actually sleeps at that place, no documentary proof of place of residence shall be necessary. Booth Level Officer must visit for more than one night for such verification. After conducting such verification and to the satisfaction of ERO that the person fulfills all the prescribed conditions, necessary action for enrolment shall be done.

Q 45. I am a tenant and how can I get enrolled as a voter? Who is competent authority to verify claim applications and objections?

Ans.- To get enrolled in the voter list is your statutory right. please fill up Form 6 and submit (online/offline) it to the ERO/ AERO/ Booth Level Officer of your area along with the requisite document mentioned in the guidelines to fill the Form-6.

Q46. Can one be enrolled at more than one place?

Ans. No. A person cannot be enrolled as a voter at more than one place in view of the provisions contained in Sections 17 and 18 of Representation of the People Act, 1950. Likewise, no person can be enrolled as an elector more than once in any electoral roll.

Any person while applying for fresh enrolment, makes a statement or declaration that his/her name is not included in the electoral roll of any other constituency, and if such statement/declaration is false and which the applicant either knows or believes to be false or does not believe to be true, he is liable to be punished under section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

Overseas (NRI) Electors

Q47. Who is an overseas (NRI) elector? Can an NRI settled in foreign land become an elector of electoral roll in India?

Ans.- An overseas elector is a person who is a citizen of India and who has not acquired citizenship of any other country and is otherwise eligible to be registered as a voter and who is absenting from his place of ordinary residence in India owing to his employment, education or otherwise is eligible to be registered as a voter in the constituency in which his place of residence in India as mentioned in his passport is located. According to the provisions of Section 20A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, an NRI settled in foreign land can become an elector in electoral roll in India.

Q48. How can an overseas Indian (NRI) get registered / enrolled in the electoral roll?

Ans.- He/she has to file an application for the purpose in prescribed Form 6A before the Electoral Registration Officer/Assistant Electoral Registration Officer of the constituency within which the place of ordinary residence of the applicant in India as given in his/her passport falls. The application accompanied by duly self-attested copy of the relevant documents can be filed in person before the concerned ERO/ AERO or sent by post addressed to him or can be filed online through NVSP portal/VHA mobile app or on the website of Chief Electoral Officer of the concerned stat/ ECI.

Q49. What documents are required to be enclosed with Form 6A?

Ans.- One recent passport size coloured photograph, duly affixed in Form 6A, photo-copies of the relevant pages of the passport containing photograph, his address in India and all other particulars of the applicant and also the page of passport containing the valid visa endorsement.

Q50. Where the entries pertaining to overseas (NRI) elector find place in the electoral roll?

Ans.- Name of overseas elector is included in a separate section for "Overseas Electors" which is the last section of the roll of that particular part / polling station area of the constituency in which his place of residence in India as mentioned in his passport is located.

Q51. Whether Electoral Registration Officer is to be informed of the change in current residential address of the overseas (NRI) electors in the country of his/her residence?

Ans.- Yes. It is the responsibility of the overseas elector to keep the Electoral Registration Officer informed of the change in residential address in the country of his/her

residence.

Q52. Whether Electoral Registration Officer is to be informed when the overseas (NRI) elector returns to India and becomes ordinarily resident in India?

Ans.- Yes. An overseas elector must do so. In such a case, the person can then be registered as a general elector at the place where he is ordinarily resident in India.

Q53. How can an overseas (NRI) elector whose name is enrolled in the electoral roll exercise his/her franchise?

Ans.- After enrolment, an overseas (NRI) elector becomes able to cast his/her vote in an election in the Constituency, in person, at the polling station provided for the part where he/she is registered as an overseas (NRI) elector.

Q54. Is an overseas (NRI) elector issued an EPIC?

Ans. – An overseas (NRI) elector is not issued an EPIC as he is allowed to cast his vote in an election in the constituency, in person at the polling station on production of his original passport.

Q55. Whether the overseas (NRI) elector should surrender EPIC, if already issued to him, in India?

Ans. Yes. The overseas elector should surrender EPIC, if already issued to him, in India, along with submission of Form 6 A.

Last Part of Electoral Roll for Service Voters

Q56. Who is a service voter?

Ans. Service voter is a voter having service qualification. According to the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 20 of Representation of the People Act, 1950, service qualification means –

- (a) Being a member of the armed Forces of the Union; or
- (b) Being a member of a force to which provisions of the Army Act, 1950 (46 of 1950), have been made applicable whether with or without modification;
- (c) Being a member of an Armed Police Force of a State, and serving outside that state; or
- (d) Being a person who is employed under the Government of India, in a post outside India.

Q57. What are the application Forms in which various categories of service voters have to apply for enrollment as elector?

Ans. Following are the application Forms in which various categories of service voters are to make application for enrollment as service voter: -

- 1. Members of Armed Forces – Form 2
- 2. Members of Armed Police Force of a State, serving outside that State – Form 2 A
- 3. Persons employed under Government of India on post outside India – Form 3

However, if a service personnel has opted to get himself enrolled as general elector at place of his posting, where he is actually residing, he will have to apply in Form 6 like other generalelectors.

Q58. What is the process of enrollment of any service personnel as a service voter?

Ans. Election Commission normally orders revision/updation of rolls for service voters every year. The Commission sends a communication to Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs intimating them of the commencement of revision programme. As soon as the programme is announced, persons having service qualification can fill up the application in statutory Form 2 / 2A / 3, and handover to the officer in-charge of record office or the nodal authority in Ministry of External Affairs (in case of persons employed under Government of India on a post outside India). All the activities of summary revision including submission of Forms by eligible service personnel through their Record Officer/Commanding Officer are done online through service voters portal exclusively meant for service personnel. The person applying in Form 2 / 2A has also to submit a declaration to the effect that he did not get enrolled as general elector in any constituency which is the part of the Form itself. The officer in-charge, after verification of the Form forwards the same to the Electoral Registration Officer concerned to process the Form and to take necessary action for enrolment.

Q59. Is spouse (wife or husband) or son/daughter of a service voter also enrolled as a service voter?

Ans. The spouse of a service voter shall, if he/she is ordinarily residing with his/her spouse, can also be registered as service voter in the constituency specified by that person. The service voter has to make a statement to the effect in the relevant Form 2/2A/3 that his/her wife/husband ordinarily resides with him/her. The wife/husband will be enrolled as a service voter on the basis of declaration made by her husband/his wife in the application form itself submitted by him/her and no separate declaration / application is required to be made by the wife/husband. A son/daughter/relative/servant etc. residing ordinarily with a service voter cannot be enrolled as service voter.

Q60. Can one be enrolled simultaneously as a service voter at his native place as well as a general voter at the place of posting?

Ans. No. A person, at a particular time, cannot be enrolled as a voter at more than one place in view of the provisions contained under Sections 17 and 18 of Representation of People Act, 1950. Likewise, no person can be enrolled as an elector more than once in any electoral roll. As explained above, a service voter has option either to get himself registered as service voter at his native place or as general elector at the place of posting. When a person applies for registration as a service voter in Form 2 / 2A, he has to submit a declaration in a prescribed format to the effect that he did not get enrolled as ordinary general elector in any constituency.

Q61. Who is a Classified Service Voter?

Ans. Service voter belonging to Armed Forces or forces to which provisions of Army Act, 1950 are applicable, has option of either voting through postal ballot or through a

proxy voter duly appointed by him. A service voter who opts for voting through a proxy is called Classified Service Voter (CSV).

Q62. Who is a 'proxy'? What is the procedure of appointment of a 'proxy'?

Ans. A service voter may appoint (by applying to Returning Officer in Form 13 F of Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 – Form available at the website of Election Commission) any person as his / her proxy to give vote on his / her behalf and in his / her name at the polling station. The proxy shall have to be ordinary resident of that constituency. He need not be a registered voter but he / she must not be disqualified to be registered as a voter. A 'proxy' can be appointed in the following two ways: -

- If a service voter is at the place of his posting, he has to put his signature in Form 13F before the Commanding Officer of the Unit and then to send the Form to his proxy for affixing his / her signature before a Notary / First Class Magistrate. Thereafter, the proxy can submit the Form to the Returning Officer concerned.
- If a service voter is at his native place, both he and his proxy can sign Form 13 F before a Notary / First Class Magistrate and then send to the Returning Officer concerned.

Q63. Can a Classified Service Voter be issued postal ballots by the Returning Officer?

Ans. A Classified Service Voter cannot be issued postal ballots but the appointed proxy shall physically come and vote at the polling station which covers the classified voter's home address.

Q64. For what period a proxy remains valid?

Ans. The provision for voting through proxy is valid till the person making the appointment is a service voter. Once appointed, the proxy will continue until his appointment is revoked by the service voter. The facility of proxy voter can be revoked and the proxy can be changed at any time or for any number of times by the Classified Service Voter. Thus a Classified Service Voter can revoke and opt back for postal ballot route or even substitute the proxy by intimating the Returning Officer in Form 13 G of Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 (Form available at the website of Election Commission). Revocation will become effective from the date it is received by the Returning Officer.

Q65. When should the application for appointment of a proxy be made?

Ans.- Application for appointment of a proxy should be received by the Returning Officer before the last date of filing of nomination papers. An application for appointment of a proxy received after the last date of filing nomination papers cannot be considered for the election in progress, though it will be valid for subsequent elections unless revoked / changed

Q66. In which language the last part of rolls is prepared for service voters?

Ans. The last part containing the list of service voter is prepared in English only.

Q67. Is a service voter issued Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC) like ordinary electors?

Ans. A service voter is not issued Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC). Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC) is a document of identity which an elector has to show at the polling station at the time of casting his vote. As service voters are issued postal ballots or votes through his 'proxy', they are not required to visit the polling stations personally and therefore Elector Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) is not issued to them.

Q68. Is a service voter required to apply for issue of a postal ballot paper?

Ans. No, the Returning Officer will himself send a postal ballot paper to him through his record office (or direct or through the Ministry of External Affairs in the case of a service voter serving outside India).

Electoral Roll for Legislative Council Constituencies

Q69. What is the relevant date for revision of electoral rolls for Legislative Council Constituencies?

Ans.- In the case of Local Authorities Constituencies there is no qualifying date, however the qualifying date for being enrolled in Graduates and Teachers Constituencies 1st day of November of the year in which the preparation or revision of the electoral rolls is commenced.

Q70. How can one get registered/enrolled in the electoral rolls for Legislative Council Constituencies?

Ans.- For enrolment in electoral roll for Local Authorities Constituencies only ex-officio and nominated members of the Local Authorities in the concerned State are eligible. The application for inclusion can be made in Form 17 to the Electoral Registration Officer. For registration in Graduates and Teachers Constituencies, one has to file the application for the purpose, in prescribed Form 18 or 19 as the case may be, before the ERO/AERO of the constituency within which the place of ordinary residence of the applicant falls. The application accompanied by copies of the relevant documents can be filed in person before the concerned ERO/AERO or sent by post addressed to him.

Q71. From where Form 17/18/19 can be obtained?

Ans. It can be downloaded from the website of Election Commission of India. Forms are also available free of cost in offices of Electoral Registration Officers / Assistant Electoral Registration Officers.

Q72. What are the conditions for enrolment in Graduates and Teachers Constituencies?

Ans. For enrolment in a Graduates' Constituency one should be an ordinarily resident in that Constituency, and should have, for at least three years before the qualifying date (1st November of the year), been either a Graduate of a university in India or in possession of any of the qualification deemed to be equivalent to that of a Graduate of a university in India. For registration in electoral roll for a Teachers' Constituency, one should be ordinarily resident in that Constituency and within the six years immediately before the qualifying date (1st November of the year), for a total period of at least three years, should have been engaged in teaching in any of the educational institutions notified by the State Government within the State, not lower than in

standard than that of a secondary school.

Q73. What documents are required to be enclosed with Form 18?

Ans.- The eligible person should apply for enrolment of their names in the prescribed Form-18 along with any of the documents listed below-

- (i) The degree/diploma certificate, in original, issued by the University or Institution concerned or a copy thereof, duly authenticated by the Designated Officer/Additional Designated Officer/Gazetted Officer of the District concerned.
- (ii) A copy of an entry in the Government record or a certificate issued to a Graduate employee by the Gazetted Head of Offices/Institutes on the basis of entries in Government records in his custody or a copy of an entry in the record of Statutory Bodies, Corporations or Public undertakings specifying the degree, diploma or certificate possessed by the claimant, duly at tested by the Head of the office concerned; or
- (iii) An attested copy of the card of registration as Registered Graduate issued by the University, a certified copy of the relevant entry in the list of Registered Graduates', the Roll of Advocates, the Register of Medical Practitioners, the Register of Chartered Accountants, the Register of Engineers maintained by Institute of Engineers, etc.; or
- (iv) An Affidavit by the claimant, supported by certificate from the Registrar of a University, or the Principal of a College affiliated to university or from the Head of the Department of such College under whom he had studied; or
- (v) The mark sheet, in original, issued by the University or Institution concerned or a copy there of, duly authenticated by the Additional Designated Officer/Gazetted Officer of the District concerned/Notary Public.

Q74. What documents are required to be enclosed with Form 19?

Ans.- Every person applying for enrolment (in Form-19) in Teachers' constituency must submit documentary proof of having been engaged in teaching in any of the specified educational institutions for a total period of at least three years within six years immediately before the qualifying date. Electoral Registration Officer / Assistant Electoral Registration Officer concerned should make such verification of the documentary proof as he considers necessary. A certificate by the Head of the teaching institution should normally be considered adequate documentary proof of possessing that teaching qualification. If any person, who has applied for inclusion of his name in a teachers' constituency, has been engaged in teaching in more than on specified educational institutions in the last six years, the certificate from the Head of institution of each of such educational institution will be required for the period for which he was engaged in teaching in that educational institution.

[thewire.in /politics/bihar-electoral-rolls-revision-eci-nrc-election](https://thewire.in/politics/bihar-electoral-rolls-revision-eci-nrc-election)

In Bihar, Is the Election Commission Revising the Electoral Rolls or Compiling an NRC? - The Wire

Jagdeep S. Chhokar : 14-18 minutes

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First, the facts.

The current term of the Bihar state assembly ends on November 22, 2025. Elections, therefore, have to be held before that date.

[Section 21\(3\)](#) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, authorises the Election Commission of India (ECI), to 'direct a special revision of the electoral roll for any constituency or part of a constituency in such manner as it may think fit' ... 'at any time, for reasons to be recorded'.

This is further reinforced by [Rule 25](#) of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, which says, 'The roll for every constituency shall be revised under sub-section (2) of section 21 either intensively or summarily or partly intensively and partly summarily, as the Election Commission may direct.'

On June 24, 2025, ECI

1. issued a [four-page press note](#) announcing that it will 'begin Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls in Bihar', and

2. wrote a [19-page letter](#) to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Bihar with the subject – 'Special Intensive Revision w.r.t. 01.07.2025 as the qualifying date' – consisting of a three-page letter with four annexures:

1. a three-page 'ORDER' titled 'Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls',
2. a nine-page 'Detailed Guidelines For Special Intensive Revision',
3. a two-page 'Enumeration Form' including a 'Declaration' format, and
4. a two-page 'Declaration Form' including an 'Indicative (not exhaustive) list of documents to be submitted in support of the declaration (separate self attested documents to be submitted for Self, Father and Mother, if mentioned above, except where extract of the Electoral Roll of Bihar with qualifying date 01.01.2003 is used, which will be considered as a sufficient document in itself)'.

Paragraph 7 of the letter to the CEO of Bihar states that 'SIR (Special Intensive Revision) [is] to be undertaken strictly within the timeline as per the following schedule.'

The schedule shows that the process was to begin on June 25, 2025. Note that the letter itself is dated June 24, 2025. This is what will need to happen:

- ERO (electoral registration officers) to print pre-filled Enumeration Forms (in duplicate) for all existing electors and give it to the respective BLOs (booth-level officers)',
- then, training to be given to BLOs,
- then, distribution of enumeration forms by going from house to house,
- subsequently, the collection of the filled/corrected forms, again by going from house to house,
- the checking and verification of Enumeration Forms by superior officials,
- the rationalisation/re-arrangement of polling stations and finalisation of proposed restructuring of section/part boundaries, location of polling stations and obtaining approval of list of polling stations,
- the publication of draft electoral roll on August 01, 2025,
- followed by a period for filing claims and objections, and
- final publication of the electoral roll on September 30, 2025.

Need and timing for the 'Special Intensive Revision'

The press note says:

"Various reasons such as rapid urbanization, frequent migration, young citizens becoming eligible to vote, non-reporting of deaths and inclusion of the names of foreign illegal immigrants have necessitated the conduct of an intensive revision so as to ensure integrity and preparation of error-free electoral rolls."

Paragraph 4 of the order of June 24, 2025 says:

"Whereas, in line with this objective, the Commission has previously exercised its powers under enabling statutes in the years such as 1952-56, 1957, 1961, 1965, 1966, 1983-84, 1987-89, 1992, 1993, 1995, 2002, 2003 and 2004 to undertake Intensive Revision of electoral rolls for all or some parts of the country for afresh preparation of electoral rolls through enumeration. The last intensive revision in Bihar, was conducted by the Commission in the year 2003 with reference to 01.01.2003 as the qualifying date."

This raises an issue. Have 'rapid urbanization, frequent migration, young citizens becoming eligible to vote, non-reporting of deaths and inclusion of the names of foreign illegal immigrants' intensified in the last few years or have they been on-going phenomena?

Following this, it is surprising that while from 1952 to 2004, such revisions seem to have been done much more frequently, the ECI has not felt the need for doing so for the last 21 years!

The current ECI might say that they are not responsible for what happened between 2004 and now but that may not be an adequate explanation because the ECI is an institution which is expected to function continuously irrespective of the individuals who come and go. There has to be some institutional memory and 21 years is not an insignificant period of time by any standard.

Feasibility of the time frame

The time frame for the entire exercise as summarised at above appears to be extremely ambitious.

Not to overstress the supreme optimism in the expectation that EROs will start printing pre-filled enumeration forms for all existing electors and giving them to the respective BLOs on June 25, 2025 after receiving the instructions by email or WhatsApp on June 24, 2025, but expecting two rounds of house-to-house survey after having been trained (assuming training materials are ready), preparation of draft electoral rolls, rationalisation or re-arrangement of polling stations and finalisation of proposed restructuring of section or part boundaries, location of polling stations, dealing with objections or claims after providing sufficient time for their filing, to be completed in just three months, seems a really tall order.

Perhaps the ECI can take some advice from the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India.

A related issue is the starting time. Conducting an intensive revision is clearly a very useful activity. Could it not have been started a few months earlier?

ECI states in the press note, reassuringly, that it 'shall be seeking active involvement of all political parties in the process.'

It adds, 'It may be underscored that both, the electors and the political parties, are the most important stakeholders in any electoral process and it is only with their full participation that an exercise of such magnitude can be conducted smoothly and successfully.'

Might it not have been useful and was it not possible to include 'the most important stakeholders in any electoral process' in the planning process for 'an exercise of such magnitude'?

Legal and procedural issues

Paragraph 11 of the Order of June 24, 2025 reads as follows:

‘Since the last intensive revision in Bihar was undertaken in 2003, the EROs shall treat the electoral roll of 2003 with qualifying date of 01.01.2003 as probative evidence of eligibility, including presumption of citizenship unless they receive any other input otherwise.’

It is followed by paragraph 12 which reads:

‘Any person whose name is not recorded in the 2003 Electoral Roll shall for the purpose of registration in the electoral roll is required to submit from amongst a wide range of eligible government documents as prescribed for establishing their eligibility to be an elector.’

Read together, and in simple English (devoid of legalese), these mean that all those registered as voters after January 1, 2003, are *not* registered voters and, to add insult to injury, *not presumed to be citizens of India*.

This may sound like an exaggeration but it follows directly from what Paragraph 11 says:

‘...the EROs shall treat the electoral roll of 2003 with qualifying date of 01.01.2003 as probative evidence of eligibility, including presumption of citizenship...’

This is reinforced by Paragraph 12 which says that such persons (those not enrolled as voters on January 1, 2003) will be ‘required to submit from amongst a wide range of eligible government documents as prescribed for establishing their eligibility to be an elector.’

The ‘wide range of eligible government documents’ given in the ‘indicative (not exhaustive) list of documents to be submitted in support of the declaration’ are very similar to documents required to be produced to establish one’s citizenship.

Here the ECI is on firm ground because Article 326 of the Constitution of India states that ‘every person who is a citizen of India...shall be entitled to be registered as a voter at any such election’.

However, three issues still remain.

One, if these persons who were not registered as voters on January 1, 2003 but were registered later, are *not* to be considered registered voters now, what happens to the votes they cast in all the intervening elections from January 2003 till now?

Are all those votes and the election results based on those votes, invalid? How do we deal with this?

Two, again, if these persons who were not registered as voters on January 1, 2003 but were registered later, are *not* to be considered registered voters now, does this not mean that for all practical purposes their names have been deleted from the electoral roll? This creates a problem.

Rule 21A of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 is titled 'Deletion of name' and provides a process for deletion of names registered in the electoral roll. This process, *inter alia*, requires that 'before taking any action under this rule in respect of any person...the registration officer shall make every endeavour to give him a reasonable opportunity to show cause why the action proposed should not be taken in relation to him'.

This means that all those persons who were not registered as voters on January 1, 2003 but were registered later, have now been deprived of their legal right for this 'reasonable opportunity'. If any of these deprived persons decides to go to court for this violation, the courts will have to decide this issue.

The **third** issue pertains to what amounts to a change in the procedure for registration of voters. The current procedure, before June 24, 2025, required a person wishing to be registered as a voter, to fill Form 6, given in the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, and the person is required to give the following declaration:

'DECLARATION – I hereby declare that to the best of knowledge and belief –

1. 1. I am a citizen of India and place of my birth is Village/Town ____ District ____ State ____
2. I am ordinarily resident at the address given at (h) above since ____ (date, month, year).
3. I have not applied for the inclusion of my name in the electoral roll for any other constituency.
4. *My name has not already been included in the electoral roll for this or any other assembly/ parliamentary constituency

OR

*My name may have been included in the electoral roll for ____ Constituency in ____ State in which I was ordinarily resident earlier at the address mentioned below and if so, I request that the same may be deleted from that electoral roll.

* strike off the option not appropriate'

Form 6 does **not** require any information regarding the parents of the applicant.

Now, there is an 'indicative' (not exhaustive) list of documents to be submitted in support of the declaration with separate self-attested documents to be submitted for self, father and mother.

This is a major departure from the practice that has existed for many years and there is no specific explanation provided for this major change.

Practical issues

The first major practical issue is that of timing and feasibility primarily arising from the conditions in rural Bihar such as literacy, computer literacy, availability or lack of power, and the elephant-in-the-room in Bihar – migration.

As of now, all the forms seem to be in English. Even assuming that they will be translated into Hindi and possibly other local languages, literacy remains a challenge.

'Key highlights' attached to the press note say the following:

- 'EROs to print pre-filled Enumeration Form (EF) for all existing electors as on the date of the order and give it to BLOs.
- 'BLOs to distribute EFs to all existing electors through House-to-House visit
- 'EF will be available on the ECI website/ECINET which can be downloaded by an elector whose name is in the electoral roll as on the date of the order'.

While it is very nice for the EF to be available on the ECI website/ECINET but the question arises as to how many electors in rural Bihar will be computer-literate enough to download the EF, or will have the equipment to do so, or will have adequate supply of electricity to do so

Then there is the issue of migration. The propensity of people from Bihar to migrate to other states in search of livelihood is widely known. Imagine the plight of migrants who are earning a living working outside the state, often under difficult conditions. They will not be found 'at home' when the BLO goes to their 'house' in the village to give and then to collect the EF. Will they be in a position to 'download' the EF while working at a construction site in Mumbai?

How many such and other unfortunate electors will be disenfranchised because of these impractical provisions is anyone's guess.

Transparency

The fourth paragraph of the press note has a very curious and interesting provision. It says the following:

'Now, to ensure complete transparency, it would be necessary that the documents on the basis of which such satisfaction of ERO is arrived at, are also uploaded in ECINET as the current level of technology enables so. However, these documents shall be accessible to authorized election officials only keeping in view the privacy issues.'

This is truly delectable.

While the documents will be uploaded in ECINET 'to ensure complete transparency', '(h)owever, these documents shall be accessible to authorized election officials only...'

How transparent can one get!

Another view

In a June 25, 2025 [editorial](#), a national daily has said:

'So, birth certificates for those born after 2004, who also need to furnish parents' documents, as proof of citizenship will throw up a gazillion issues. Already, there are fears

that the 'illegal immigrant' electoral plank, in a state where EBCs include Muslim groups, will rear its head – as it did in pre-poll Jharkhand.'

It goes on to add, 'Vagaries of monsoon are certainly not the time for poor Bihar voters to be scurrying around to prove, via documents, their eligibility as a voter.'

Thus, the proposed Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls for Bihar, as envisaged by the ECI in the documents available in the public domain so far, appears to be impractical given the schedule the ECI has itself laid down.

The revision might result in the disenfranchisement of a substantial number of electors of Bihar.

The procedure specified for the revision circumvents and violates existing legal provisions that the ECI has been following for a long time. This has the potential to create legal complications.

Last word

The list (indicative not exhaustive) of documents required to be produced, including some for the applicant's parents reminds one of the slogan '*kagaz nahin dikhayenge* (we won't show our papers)' used during the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens.

And this leads to the next logical question. Is this electoral roll revision or is this the NRC?

Jagdeep S. Chhokar is a concerned citizen.

Preshant Bhusan
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Roll crunch: On the revision of Bihar's electoral rolls

Saurabh Trivedi 3-4 minutes 01/07/2025

Elections in India feature a larger number of voters from among the poor and marginalised sections when compared to the West, offering them the best outlet to register their views while choosing their representatives. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has done yeoman work in increasing voter participation by easing the registration process, allowing the poor in even less developed States to vote enthusiastically. On Saturday, the [ECI initiated a "Special Intensive Revision" of electoral rolls](#) in Bihar ahead of [Assembly elections scheduled in October](#). The objective of ensuring an accurate electoral roll is constitutionally sound as this includes adding all eligible citizens and eliminating ineligible voters such as the dead, those who have shifted and also non-citizens. However, the hurried timeline and the documentation requirements for verification raise serious concerns about the potential exclusion of genuine voters. The ECI has said that Bihar's Draft Electoral Rolls, as of January 1, 2025, stand at close to 7.96 crore electors. It has also said that 4.96 crore individuals, who were on the 2003 electoral roll, will not need to submit fresh documents, and for their children, only an extract of the 2003 roll can serve as proof for their parents. However, the figure from 2003 is not static. A significant number has either passed away or migrated. The Hindu's Data Point estimates this attrition to be around 1.8 crore. Thus, the number of living, resident electors from the 2003 list eligible for simplified verification is closer to 3.16 crore. Consequently, the actual figure of those who need to provide fresh documents for enrolment would be closer to 4.74 crore.

These individuals would have to prove their elector status within a month when the draft roll is prepared. Their claims and objections will have to be filed within a month after that, which is too short a period. The challenge is compounded by the ECI's illustrative list of 11 acceptable documents. Bihar has historically lagged in birth registration, with very few in possession of birth certificates. The possession of other "official" documents such as matriculation certificates and government-issued IDs also remain low among a large section of the population, especially the poor and the less educated. The exclusion of widely available documents such as Aadhaar or current ration cards is also puzzling as these are more accessible to Bihar's marginalised communities. Considering the enormity of the exercise, the ECI should reconsider its approach. Such an intensive revision should be conducted over a much extended period, and for all States, and completed before the 2029 general election, rather than rushing it through before the Assembly election. The integrity of the electoral process demands caution and time, especially when dealing with the fundamental right to vote.

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Preshant Bhusan

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[www.thehindu.com /data/voter-verification-drive-in-bihar-too-little-time-too-many-hurdles/article697569...](http://www.thehindu.com/data/voter-verification-drive-in-bihar-too-little-time-too-many-hurdles/article697569...)

Voter verification drive in Bihar: too little time, too many hurdles

Rahul Shastri : 9-11 minutes : 30/06/2025

The Election Commission of India (ECI) recently [issued an order](#) for holding Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls for Bihar. This exercise will then be carried out in all the States. The order is antithetical to the tradition of this august institution. From the first election held in independent India, the ECI has played a heroic role in seeding democracy through active voter enrolment and protection of the right to vote of the disadvantaged.

Though the ECI is facing a credibility crisis of late, this initiative is surprisingly radical. And unless it is substantially modified, it will disproportionately disenfranchise the poor and deprived electors irrespective of their party preference. We will leave the thorny questions of legality to the experts and just focus on the scale of the venture and its practicability within the proposed timeline.



As per the directive, all individuals who have not been featured in the electoral rolls of 2003 need to prove their citizenship as per the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2003, and Rules. Broadly, if the 2003 electoral roll features nearly all individuals who were 18 years or older then, these individuals, now 40 years and older, get a direct entry into the proposed electoral roll. How many then have to go through the hoops?

The affected population

In 2020, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare published a report, Population Projections for India and States 2011-36. The report estimates the current voting age population of Bihar to be 8.08 crore. About 59% of this population (4.76 crore individuals) is 40 years old and under. The ECI, from July 1 to July 31, requires this staggering number to prove citizenship.

In its press note of June 28, the ECI stated that the electorate count in Bihar is 7.9 crore. As per the ECI, as “4.96 crore of the 7.9 crore already have their names in the last intensive revision of electoral rolls” in 2003, just 2.94 crore individuals will need to submit their eligibility documents.

This is clearly an oversight. The electoral roll of 2003 for Bihar did have around 4.96 crore individuals. By our calculations from the reports of the Sample Registration System, around 1.1 crore of them are dead. The ECI has taken them off the rolls.

Plus, there is sizeable number of people who have permanently migrated out of Bihar. As per a paper by Pinak Sarkar, Professor at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, deriving from the Census, 93 lakh people permanently migrated out of Bihar between 2001 and 2011. Even if migration has slowed a bit after 2011, an average of 8 lakh out-migrants a year from Bihar in the period 2003-24 would mean a total of 1.76 crore out-migrants.

If the share of those over 18 years of age in the 1.76 crore group is the same as the proportion in the Bihar population, this amounts to 94 lakh voters who have migrated out of Bihar permanently. If even one fourth of them remain electors in Bihar, 70 lakh are no longer electors in Bihar and are voting elsewhere in India. The ECI would have taken them off the Bihar electoral rolls.

Hence, of the 4.96 crore electors in the 2003 list, if we remove those who are dead and those who have migrated from Bihar permanently, around 3.16 crore electors remain in the present count of Bihar's electorate. These 3.16 crore people who were also on the 2003 list do not need to submit any eligibility documents. The rest of the 4.74 crore individuals (7.9 crore-3.16 crore) need to submit their documents.

This figure is very similar to our 4.76 crore estimate based on population projections. The ECI requires this staggering magnitude to prove its eligibility to vote within a month.

Proof of citizenship

What is this proof of eligibility? The ECI says a copy of one document in a list of 11 needs to be presented. Seems simple? Perhaps for some other State, but certainly not for a document-scarce State such as Bihar. Let us list the 11 documents and look at the data that is publicly available for our demographic of 18-40 years.

The first is identity card/pension card of State government/ Central government/public sector undertaking. As per the 2022 caste census, 20.47 lakh Biharis have government jobs. Fewer than half of them will be from the 18-40 age group and pertain to less than 2% of this group.

The second is an identity card issued before July 1, 1987. This is not applicable.

The third is a birth certificate. As per the National Family Health Survey-3, 2.8% of Bihar's population born between 2001 and 2005 possess a birth certificate. Much of our age group of interest was born before 2001, so a negligible proportion possesses this document.

The fourth is a passport. Around 2.4% of Bihar's population possess a passport. The share would be higher in the 20-40 age group but would not reach double digits.

The fifth is a matriculation certificate. Deriving from the National Family Health Survey-2 and National Family Health Survey-5, around 45-50% of 18-40-year-olds are matriculate.

As of 2019-20, there is a 10% point gap overall between male matriculates and female matriculates: females are at a definite disadvantage

The sixth is domicile. In-migrants in Bihar are an insignificant proportion of the population.

The seventh is a forest rights certificate. The share of Scheduled Tribes (ST) in Bihar is 1.3%, according to the 2011 Census. Of them, those living in forests form a much lower share.

The eighth is an Other Backward Classes (OBC)/Scheduled Castes (SC)/ST certificate. Data from the India Human Development Survey-2, analysed by Professor Ashwini Deshpande and Rajesh Ramachandran in The India Forum, notes that around 20% of SCs, 18% of OBCs, and 38% STs had a caste certificate. Considering that almost no upper castes possess caste certificates, around 16% of Biharis possessed a caste certificate in 2011-12 when this survey was conducted.

Those eligible individuals who are 30-40 years of age today would already have obtained a caste certificate by 2012 had they wished; even if the rest obtain caste certificates in a higher proportion, overall not more than one in four households are likely to possess this document.

The ninth is the National Register of Citizens. This is applicable solely to Assam.

The tenth is the family register. This is also not applicable to Bihar.

The last is a land/house allotment certificate by the government. There is no data available on land allotment certificates. House allotment certificates seem applicable to government employees availing government housing. No such certificate is given to beneficiaries of schemes such as the Pradhan Mantra Gram Awas Yojana.

Most people without a matriculation certificate are unlikely to apply for a passport, a government job, or a caste certificate. By the ECI's new rule, the matriculation certificate has effectively become the main eligibility proof for voters aged 18 to 40. This shifts us from adult franchise to a system that favours only matriculates. As a result, around 2.4 crore-2.6 crore people who had to leave school due to poverty may now be left out of the voters' list.

The final number of people disenfranchised will be even larger than this if we add the over 40-year-olds who have been missed in the 2003 voters' list and those over 40 whose present names don't match with those in the 2003 voting list. These hundreds of lakhs of people will lose their constitutional right to vote not because they are illegal migrants but because they are illegible to a State which lacked the capacity to issue birth certificates, render basic education, or issue caste certificates to the deprived castes. A State cannot penalise so many people for its own shortcomings.

Why not Aadhaar?

This also begs a simple question: if the ECI allows for OBC/SC/ST certificates, why is Aadhaar not allowed if the proof of identity document for a caste certificate is Aadhaar? It should not be that Aadhaar's major flaw is that it is more available — around 9/10th of the

Bihar population possess it. Does the ECI believe that it has issued voter cards to non-citizens? Also, why not allow ration cards?

Yet, even if the list of allowable documents is modified to be more inclusive, the project will disenfranchise people or become a bureaucratic waste because of the sheer paucity of time.

Let us suppose that all the 4.76 crore who are asked to submit documents do so: that is, on an average, 1.95 lakh per constituency. Each constituency has one electoral registration officer (ERO) who has numerous other important duties. (The ECI website has no information on there being any assistant EROs in Bihar.) In the 62 days between July 1 and August 31, they have to scrutinise almost 2 lakh applications, prepare a draft roll, issue a notice, and launch a suo moto enquiry to each elector whose eligibility is doubted. That is a superhuman task.

Rahul Shastri is a researcher associated with Bharat Jodo Abhiyan

Preshant Bhusan
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NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY (NFHS-2)

INDIA

1998–99

BIHAR

**International Institute for Population Sciences
Mumbai, India**

**MEASURE *DHS*+, ORC MACRO
Calverton, Maryland, USA**

May 2001

Table 2.6 Educational level of the household population (contd.)

Percent distribution of the household population age 6 and above by literacy and level of education, and median number of completed years of schooling, according to age, residence, and sex, Bihar, 1998–99

Age	Educational level ¹							Total percent	Number of persons	Median number of years of schooling
	Illiterate	Literate, < primary school complete	Primary school complete	Middle school complete	High school complete	Higher secondary complete and above	Missing			
TOTAL										
Male										
6–9	42.6	56.6	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	2,380	1.1
10–14	26.4	40.1	25.0	7.8	0.6	0.0	0.0	100.0	2,538	3.7
15–19	26.7	8.6	20.1	25.9	14.0	4.7	0.0	100.0	1,825	7.3
20–29	28.6	6.1	13.0	12.7	17.9	21.7	0.0	100.0	2,862	8.4
30–39	41.6	6.1	12.5	9.7	14.2	16.0	0.0	100.0	2,367	5.5
40–49	41.9	7.0	13.7	9.1	16.5	11.7	0.0	100.0	1,640	5.2
50+	50.8	8.5	15.3	5.7	11.7	8.1	0.0	100.0	2,510	0.0
Total	36.8	19.7	14.2	9.7	10.4	9.2	0.0	100.0	16,124	3.6
Female										
6–9	51.9	47.3	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	2,224	0.0
10–14	44.6	29.8	18.9	6.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	100.0	2,427	2.3
15–19	50.8	6.3	14.5	15.9	9.9	2.6	0.1	100.0	1,836	0.0
20–29	68.2	3.8	8.5	5.5	9.0	5.1	0.0	100.0	3,239	0.0
30–39	77.5	4.1	8.1	3.0	4.1	3.3	0.0	100.0	2,247	0.0
40–49	80.3	4.7	8.9	2.0	2.8	1.4	0.0	100.0	1,382	0.0
50+	88.5	3.4	5.3	1.4	1.1	0.3	0.0	100.0	2,051	0.0
Total	65.2	14.5	9.3	4.8	4.1	2.0	0.0	100.0	15,410	0.0
Total										
6–9	47.1	52.1	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	4,604	0.0
10–14	35.3	35.1	22.0	7.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	4,965	3.1
15–19	38.8	7.5	17.3	20.9	11.9	3.7	0.0	100.0	3,661	5.7
20–29	49.6	4.8	10.6	8.9	13.2	12.9	0.0	100.0	6,101	2.5
30–39	59.1	5.1	10.3	6.4	9.3	9.8	0.0	100.0	4,614	0.0
40–49	59.5	5.9	11.5	5.8	10.2	7.0	0.0	100.0	3,022	0.0
50+	67.7	6.2	10.8	3.7	6.9	4.6	0.0	100.0	4,562	0.0
Total	50.7	17.1	11.8	7.3	7.4	5.7	0.0	100.0	31,534	0.0

Note: This table and all the subsequent tables (unless otherwise indicated) are based on the *de facto* population i.e., usual residents. Illiterate persons may have been to school, but they cannot read and write. Total includes 2 males and 4 females with missing information on age, who are not shown separately.

¹In this report, 'primary school complete' means 5–7 completed years of education, 'middle school complete' means 8–9 completed years of education, 'high school complete' means 10–11 completed years of education, and 'higher secondary complete and above' means 12 or more completed years of education.

Preshant Kushan
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Bihar



Ministry of Health and
Family Welfare
Government of India

Bihar

NFHS-3

National Family Health Survey

2005-06

National Family Health
Survey (NFHS-3)
India

2005-06

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For additional information on NFHS-3, visit www.nfhsindia.org.
For related information, visit www.iipsindia.org or www.mohfw.nic.in.



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Table 7 Children's living arrangements and orphanhood

Percent distribution of de jure children under age 18 years by their living arrangements, and percentage of children with one or both parents dead, according to background characteristics, Bihar, 2005-06

Background characteristic	Living with both parents	Living with mother but not with father	Living with father but not with mother	Not living with either parent	Missing information on father/mother	Total	Percentage with one or both parents dead	Number of children
Age								
<5 years	71.0	27.3	0.5	1.1	0.1	100.0	1.8	2,349
5-9 years	69.9	24.5	2.0	3.6	0.1	100.0	4.9	2,570
10-14 years	71.8	21.2	2.7	4.3	0.0	100.0	6.8	2,165
15-17 years	63.0	20.1	3.3	12.9	0.6	100.0	10.6	885
Residence								
Urban	84.2	9.8	1.6	4.4	0.0	100.0	4.1	1,118
Rural	67.7	26.2	1.9	4.0	0.1	100.0	5.3	6,851
Sex								
Male	70.9	23.9	2.0	3.2	0.0	100.0	5.2	4,040
Female	69.1	23.9	1.9	5.0	0.2	100.0	5.0	3,929
Total age <15 years	70.9	24.4	1.7	3.0	0.0	100.0	4.4	7,084
Total age <18 years	70.0	23.9	1.9	4.1	0.1	100.0	5.1	7,969

Table 8 Birth registration of children under age five

Percentage of de jure children under age five years whose birth was registered with the civil authorities, according to background characteristics, Bihar, 2005-06

Background characteristic	Percentage of children whose birth was registered			De jure children
	Registered, has a birth certificate	Registered, does not have a birth certificate	Total registered	
Age				
<2 years	3.0	3.2	6.2	930
2-4 years	2.7	2.8	5.5	1,419
Sex				
Male	2.5	3.4	5.9	1,228
Female	3.2	2.5	5.7	1,121
Residence				
Urban	11.5	2.2	13.7	277
Rural	1.7	3.1	4.7	2,071
Wealth index				
Lowest	0.7	2.9	3.6	759
Second	1.4	3.3	4.8	744
Middle	2.5	1.1	3.6	425
Fourth	5.4	4.9	10.3	299
Highest	19.7	2.8	22.5	122
Total	2.8	3.0	5.8	2,349

NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY (NFHS-5)

INDIA

2019-20

BIHAR

MARCH 2021

Table 3 Household population by age, schooling, residence, sex, and possession of an *Aadhaar* card

Percent distribution of the *de facto* household population by age and schooling and percentage of *de facto* individuals who have an *Aadhaar* card, according to residence and sex, Bihar, 2019-20

Background characteristic	Urban			Rural			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Age									
0-4	9.6	9.4	9.5	13.4	11.0	12.1	12.8	10.7	11.7
5-9	11.6	9.9	10.7	13.7	11.8	12.7	13.4	11.5	12.4
10-14	11.8	10.9	11.3	13.3	11.6	12.4	13.0	11.5	12.2
15-19	10.4	10.6	10.5	10.0	11.5	10.8	10.1	11.3	10.7
20-24	7.8	9.6	8.7	6.5	8.6	7.6	6.8	8.8	7.8
25-29	7.4	7.6	7.5	5.8	7.5	6.7	6.1	7.5	6.8
30-34	6.1	7.3	6.7	4.9	6.1	5.5	5.1	6.2	5.7
35-39	6.3	6.4	6.4	5.0	5.7	5.3	5.2	5.8	5.5
40-44	5.6	5.2	5.4	4.0	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.6	4.4
45-49	5.0	4.6	4.8	4.2	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.4
50-54	3.5	4.3	3.9	3.2	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.7	3.5
55-59	3.4	4.0	3.7	3.3	4.0	3.7	3.3	4.0	3.7
60-64	3.8	4.1	3.9	4.7	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.2	4.4
65-69	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.5	2.5	3.0	3.5	2.5	3.0
70-74	2.4	1.4	1.9	2.3	1.4	1.8	2.3	1.4	1.8
75-79	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.8
80 or more	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Aadhaar card									
Percentage with an <i>Aadhaar</i> card	85.9	87.0	86.4	84.1	86.5	85.4	84.4	86.6	85.5
Sex ratio, all ages ¹	na	na	982	na	na	1,111	na	na	1,090
Sex ratio, age 0-6 years ¹	na	na	940	na	na	912	na	na	916
Schooling²									
No schooling	13.4	25.8	19.6	22.3	41.2	32.4	20.8	38.9	30.3
<5 years complete	18.8	16.4	17.6	22.4	18.6	20.4	21.8	18.2	19.9
5-9 years complete	25.4	25.9	25.6	30.4	25.4	27.7	29.5	25.4	27.4
10-11 years complete	12.2	11.6	11.9	11.1	7.5	9.2	11.3	8.1	9.6
12 or more years complete	30.0	20.3	25.2	13.7	7.3	10.3	16.5	9.3	12.7
Don't know	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	12,238	12,074	24,314	57,868	66,575	124,449	70,105	78,649	148,763
Median number of years of schooling completed	7.7	5.5	6.8	4.7	1.4	3.3	5.0	2.0	3.9

na = Not applicable

¹ Females per 1,000 males

² Population age 6 and above

EXPRESS OPINION

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

EDITORIALS

COLUMNS

Yogendra Yadav writes on Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls: An attack on the right to vote

The move – first in Bihar and then in the rest of the country – has shifted the onus of being on the voters' list from the state to the citizen



'In the garb of an older exercise called Intensive Revision, which was discontinued after 2003 following the computerisation of the ER, the ECI has unleashed something altogether new and disruptive'



YOGENDRA YADAV

New Delhi Jul 2, 2025 07:18 IST ✓

First published on: Jul 2, 2025 at 06:00 IST

Welcome to the most audacious attempt at mass disenfranchisement of Indian citizens. The nationwide Special Intensive Revision (SIR) announced by the Election Commission of India (ECI) — to be rolled out first in Bihar and then in the rest of the country — is exactly that. In effect this is, as critics have alleged, a move at votebandi, following notebandi (demonetisation) and deshbandi (lockdown). Dumb at best and diabolic at worst, this draconian policy shift could end up taking away the only right that crores of ordinary Indians have had — the right to vote.

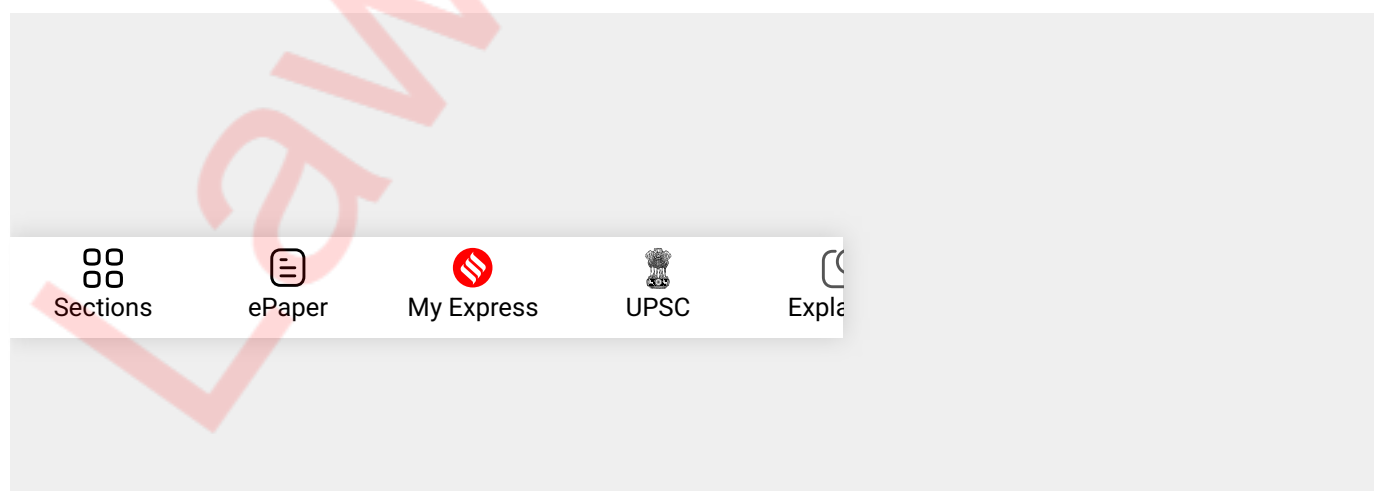
Sounds alarmist? Over-the-top political rhetoric? Just take these three steps with me and then judge for yourself.

Step one: Let us set aside the common impression that the SIR ordered by the ECI is just an overdue and thorough re-examination of the existing electoral rolls (ER, commonly called “voters’ list”). Such an exercise was carried out in Bihar just six months ago. Lakhs of names were added and deleted, with no significant complaints from any quarter. What the ECI has just ordered is a de novo, fresh writing of the voters’ list, first in Bihar, then in other poll-bound states, to be followed by the rest of the country.

This step is unprecedented. In the garb of an older exercise called Intensive Revision, which was discontinued after 2003 following the computerisation of the ER, the ECI has unleashed something altogether new and disruptive. For the first time, the onus of being on the voters’ list has been shifted from the state to the citizen. Those who fail to submit fresh enumeration forms by July 25 will automatically be left out of the draft rolls. Worse, for the first time, every person would be required to provide documentary proof of their citizenship to qualify to be on the voters’ list. This is indeed the [National Register of Citizens](#)

([NRC](#)) through the back door.

Step two: Let us cut through a smokescreen created by ECI, namely that documentary proof will be required from a very small number. The ECI's order is quite clear: Every voter will have to fill out the enumeration form with a current photograph, signatures, some basic details, plus proof of citizenship. Those who had their names on the ER of 2003 (presuming the exact name and residence have not changed) have a shortcut. They can attach a copy of the page carrying their name in the ER-2003. That will be accepted as proof of their citizenship. The ECI has claimed that 4.96 crore people (63 per cent of those currently on the ER) will be able to take this shortcut, leaving less than 3 crore to prove their eligibility. Rahul Shastri ('Voter verification drive in Bihar: too little time, too many hurdles', Data Point, The Hindu, July 1, 2025) debunks this bizarre claim as the ECI did not take into account the number of deaths, migration and shifting of residence since 2003. He demonstrates that the correct figure is closer to 3.16 crore.



That leaves an overwhelming majority (about 4.74 crore out of 7.9 crore on the current ER) who carry a high burden of proving their citizenship with the help of proofs of date and place of birth. They fall into three categories. Those above 38 years of age (born before July 1, 1987) who were too young then or for any other reason (mismatched names, shifting of residence due to marriage or otherwise) do not find their names in the ER-2003 will have to attach proof of their own date and place of birth. Those between 20 and 38 years of age (born between July 1, 1987, and December 2, 2004) will have to attach two proofs: Their own and that of their mother or father. Finally, those between 18 and 20 years of age (born after December 2, 2004) will have to attach three proofs: Their own and that of both their mother and father. While the parents' name on ER-2003 would serve as a proof for them, the applicant will still have to attach his/her own proof of date and place of birth.

Step three: Let us face a stark truth — the kind of proof the ECI is demanding for this exercise simply does not exist with a majority of the people. And it is not their fault. The state never supplied them the papers it demands of them today. If you ask any ordinary household for

identity papers, they would offer one of the following: Aadhaar, the ECI's photo identity card, ration card or MGNREGS job card. None of these would be accepted by the ECI to enrol someone as a voter.

Instead, the ECI has come up with an "indicative (though not exhaustive) list" of 11 documents that would be required. Shastri has investigated the availability of each of these documents in Bihar for the relevant period. Of these, six either do not apply in Bihar or are negligible in numbers. Four of those remaining have very little coverage: Birth certificate: 2.8 per cent; passport: 2.4 per cent; government service/pension ID: Less than 5 per cent; and caste certificate: About 16 per cent. That leaves the matriculation/education certificate (around 35 per cent for all adults and around 45 per cent for the relevant group of those aged between 20 and 40 years) as the only widely available and acceptable document from this list, which is also a requirement for most other documents. For all practical purposes, therefore, matriculation has become an informal requirement for being a citizen and a voter.

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Shastri estimates that around 2.5 crore people (nearly one-third of the current adult population in Bihar) who are required to prove citizenship may not have any of these documents. In reality, the number could be larger if you take routine operational failures

(temporary absence, inability to do paperwork, failure to locate certificates, official goof-ups etc.) into account. Even if these are overestimates, and if the actual exclusion is around 1 crore, less than half of the robust empirical estimates, we are still looking at the largest exercise in denial of voting rights.

Now you decide: How is this not an exercise in mass disenfranchisement?

Creating discriminatory, though indirect, barriers of wealth and education is exactly how disenfranchisement of African Americans was practised in the southern US. In Bihar, as in the rest of India, the burden of exclusion based on educational qualifications would fall disproportionately on women, the poor and Dalit-Adivasi and Bahujan communities. This is against the letter and spirit of the Indian Constitution.

Now ask a further question: Why did the ECI suddenly announce this ridiculous timeline for SIR in Bihar? In the 30 days between June 25 and July 25, the Bihar government is to contact about 1 lakh booth-level officers (more than 20,000 are yet to be appointed), train them for SIR, get them to connect to lakhs of booth-level agents of all political parties, educate the public about this exercise, distribute enumeration forms to each household and help them with a copy of ER-2003. Not

just that, they are also supposed to collect the completed form from each house (visit thrice if necessary), upload these to the internet, verify the certificates and give their recommendations. All within the month (of which a week has passed) when Bihar is in the midst of the monsoon and floods! So, unless the ECI has a magic wand, we should expect a withdrawal of this order, drastic changes in the list of documents allowed (as announced on June 30) or a postponement of the Bihar assembly elections.

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Finally, you may ask: If such a drastic change was needed, why did the

Special Intensive Revision not feature among the 21 initiatives listed by the new CEC just last month and reported in the media on May 30?

Why did the ECI not mention this grand proposal in its meeting with heads of various national parties held last month and over 4,000 consultations held all over the country just before that?

What changed the ECI's mind in just 25 days? A sudden phone call? Or chai pe charcha? In other words, who is the "sir" behind this SIR?

The writer is member, Swaraj India, and national convenor of Bharat Jodo Abhiyaan. Views are personal

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Bihar Assembly elections

Election Commission of India

electoral rolls revision

Preshant Kushan
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POLITICS

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In village after village in Bihar, a chorus: ‘We only have Aadhaar... how do we get the papers EC asking for?’

From CM Nitish turf Nalanda to Lalu’s Raghapur, growing disquiet — and confusion over EC conditions for voting



Across villages in Bihar, this has meant both disquiet and a desperate scramble for residential and caste certificates, the most commonly available of the 11 documents specified by the EC. (Express photo by Rahul Sharma)



**DAMINI NATH
SANTOSH SINGH**

Nalanda, Patna, Vaishali Jul 4, 2025 07:49 IST

First published on: Jul 4, 2025 at 07:00 IST

An Aadhaar card, a voter card and an MNREGS job card. For Meghan Manjhi, a 37-year-old labourer, the three “sarkari kaagaz (official documents)” largely define his life. But now, the resident of Kalyan Bigha, the native village of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, must look for more.

As per the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls ordered by the Election Commission ahead of the Bihar Assembly polls, residents of the state such as Manjhi whose names did not figure in the 2003 electoral rolls must provide one of 11 documents notified by the EC to prove their “citizenship”. None of the three documents possessed by Manjhi, who belongs to a Scheduled Caste family, counts.

“The BLO (booth level officer) has told me that if I get a residence or caste certificate made before July 25, my (voter enrolment) form can be filled,” Manjhi says.

This story plays out in village after village in the state, from Nitish’s turf Harnaut in Nalanda district, to RJD chief Lalu Prasad’s Raghapur in Vaishali. The Raghapur Assembly seat is currently represented by Lalu’s son and senior RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav.

In the next 20 days or so, as the monsoon moves in, over 77,000 BLOs along with other government staff and political party workers must check the antecedents of over 7.8 crore registered electors as part of the revision exercise. While a declaration that an applicant is a citizen is required for all new registrations, this time the EC is asking for citizenship proof for all new as well as existing voters.

Across villages in Bihar, this has meant both disquiet and a desperate scramble for residential and caste certificates, the most commonly available of the 11 documents specified by the EC. While district magistrates have issued instructions to expedite these certificates, many are either unaware or confused about the exercise, or are yet to be approached by the BLOs with the new electoral forms.

Clasping their voter IDs, ration cards and Aadhaar cards, a group of voters is crowded around BLO Pinki Kumari in Kalyan Bigha. Pinki is going through the January 1, 2003, electoral rolls to match names against the hundreds of enumeration forms she has received, while helping villagers fill the forms, collecting documents from them, and getting their thumbprints stamped. In between, she fields calls from registered voters who work outside the state, guiding them on how to complete the new forms online.

“Most of the villagers are not educated, so I’m filling out the forms for them. So far, a majority of the voters in my booth are in the 2003 list... barring 5-7%,” Pinki says. But those who are not in the list “don’t have any of the acceptable documents”, she says. “So I’m asking them to get their caste or residence certificates made quickly.”

In Vaishali district, which has about 26 lakh voters, the form distribution was about half-way complete as of Thursday. Of the distributed forms, 2.5 lakh had been filled and collected, and data of 30,000 uploaded. District Magistrate Varsha Singh says the distribution of forms would be completed by July 7.

Bihar's Chief Electoral Officer Vinod Gunjiyal told [The Indian Express](#): "We have sent the new electoral forms to 82% of the BLOs. They have distributed about 72% of the forms (reaching about 5.61 crore of the over 7.8 crore voters). About 3% of the forms have been uploaded on the EC site." Given that the deadline is less than a month away, that frames the immensity — and what many call impossibility — of the task ahead.

[Nitish Kumar's turf](#)

The Harnaut Assembly constituency, which includes the CM's village Kalyan Bigha and which has been won by Nitish several times in the past, is dominated by OBC Kurmis, along with some EBCs and Brahmin families. The Opposition has been pointing out that it is the marginalised such as EBCs who are most likely to face disenfranchisement due to the EC exercise.

Sitting among friends just outside Nitish's family home, Rajnish Prakash Singh is confused about the specifics, but says he is not worried as he has his land papers and a caste certificate. "It will be done," he says confidently. "We have left it to our BLOs," adds an elderly Surendra Singh.

Ashish Thakur, a daily wageer from Kalyan Bigha, however, is worried. Born after 2003, he has to submit his identity proof along with his father's. "My father died in 1999 and I have no idea how I can prove my father's identity," he says.

Move away from Harnaut, and the awareness about the EC drive falls within even Nalanda district. Pooja Kumari, from Rajgir, used to live with her husband in [Hyderabad](#) but moved back during [Covid-19](#). She is still registered as a voter in Hyderabad, where her husband works.

She hasn't heard about the new EC drive. "They only used the Aadhaar to make my voter card in Hyderabad. That's all I know," she says.

Aafiya Parveen, 22, is new to Nalanda, moving to Bihar Sharif from Jamshedpur after her marriage. She got her voter ID card just a week ago, having successfully transferred it from Jamshedpur. The fact that the EC wants more documents is news to her, too, though she is sure it won't be a problem for her. "Those who are not educated will face problems," she says.

Tejashwi's constituency

In Raghopur, located nearly 100 km away, there are few who know of the EC exercise.

Bindu Devi, whose husband works outside the state, says she got her new voter card only on March 27. A member of the Yadav community that is dominant in Raghopur and a loyal RJD voter base, Bindu says she "paid Rs 50 to a computer operator to fill the form online and get my voter card". Will I have to get it made again too?"

Discussing the list of documents the EC is asking for with other women in the village, Bindu remarks: "We women don't have caste or residence certificates." Only those who are applying for government jobs or college seats get caste certificates made, she says. All she has is an [Aadhaar card](#), and is not sure how to get a caste certificate made.

Bhagirath Rai, a farmer who has been "voting for decades", also says Aadhaar is the only sarkaari kaagaz he has. He did get a caste certificate made around 13 years ago for the school admission of one of his children, but is not sure he has a copy of it anymore.

In a Yadav settlement, a group of women say it is the first they are hearing of the EC drive. Requesting anonymity, one of them says: “Our husbands or sons live in [Delhi](#) or Punjab. My husband can’t come back to fill the new form... Will they pay for the fare for the men to come for this?”

In yet another Yadav settlement in Raghapur, Yogita Devi says she has heard of the EC revision from her sister-in-law, who is a BLO. But even she is yet to receive her form.

Yogita agrees with the Opposition claim that this is the EC’s “sure shot way to cut votes of the poor”. She has another fear. “Say my great-grandfather had some land, which got split into multiple portions by the time it reached my father and then me. If a person gives their family’s land documents (one of the 11 allowed) as proof for the voter ID now, the government will say that they are well-off and stop their rations, even though they may not have enough land to live off it, and may be working as labourers,” Yogita says.

Mahesh Kumar Thakur, a BLO in Raghapur, admits: “There are some bastis where no one has any documents.” His supervisor who has eight booths under him, Sachidanand Singh, adds that the administration is working on issuing domicile certificates quickly.

But, neither is sure they have enough time.

EC directive

As per the instructions issued by the EC on June 24, just four days before it rolled out the process on the ground, those who were on the electoral rolls in 2003 (when the last such Special Intensive Revision was done) can use the relevant extract from it as proof, while children of those on the 2003 rolls can use their parents’ electoral roll extract. That means that all voters 40 and younger (who would not have been 18 in 2003) will have to provide additional documents.

Only those who complete the formalities will be included in the draft electoral roll to be published on August 1, with just over a month to go for the Assembly polls.

The 11 documents specified by the EC for those not figuring in the 2003 electoral rolls are: any identity card / pension payment order to an employee or pensioner of any PSU; any identity card / certificate / document issued by any government / local authorities / banks / post office / [LIC](#) / PSUs before July 1, 1987; birth certificate issued by a competent authority; passport; matriculation/educational certificate issued by recognised boards / universities; permanent residence certificate issued by competent state authority; forest right certificate; OBC / SC / ST or any caste certificate; [national register of citizens](#) (wherever it exists); family register; and land / house allotment certificate.

RJD spokesperson Mrityunjay Tiwari says the “feedback” they have got is that “the youth, poor, Dalit, who are voters of Tejashwi, will find it difficult to be in the list”. “How can this exercise be done in 25 days, given that this is the season of monsoon floods, and people who live outside cannot return at such short notice?”

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The JD(U) has put its party leaders to work to help voters, and its chief spokesperson, Neeraj Kumar, says that is the course to take. “Political parties must appoint booth level agents. None of the parties have them across all the booths. If we had appointed them, they would have worked with BLOs and helped the people... It is not good for democracy.”

At the same time, Kumar admits that allegations have been raised by the Opposition. “These have to be answered by the EC.”

However, even within the ruling party ranks, there is disquiet. Raj Kishor, a JD(U) worker from Kalyan Bigha, says: “This came as a surprise to us all. There should be revision of electoral rolls, but it can’t be finished in such a short time... At least six months should have been set aside.”


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Preshant Kushan
(TRUE COPY)

Election Commission takes 21 initiatives in 100 days to streamline poll management

To improve voter access, the poll authority has revised the maximum number of electors per polling station from 1,500 to 1,200

Published - May 29, 2025 05:27 pm IST - New Delhi

PTI



Image used for representative purposes. File | Photo Credit: Reuters

“In a bid to enhance voter experience and streamline poll management, the Election Commission of India (EC) has launched 21 new initiatives over the past 100 days,” officials said on Thursday (May 29), 2025.

These measures, they pointed out, span procedural reforms, training programmes and stakeholder engagement. “The measures have marked the first 100 days of the 26th Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar,” they noted.

To improve voter access, the poll authority has revised the maximum number of electors per polling station from 1,500 to 1,200. Additional polling booths will be set up in densely populated areas such as gated communities and high-rise buildings.

The Commission, they said, aims to ensure that no voter is required to travel more than 2 km to cast their vote.

Voter information slips have been redesigned for clarity on the polling station number. As a significant boost to the convenience of voters, a mobile phone deposit facility will be set up at the entrance of every polling station.

Booths set up by candidates will now be permitted just beyond 100 metres from the entrance of the polling station gate, as opposed to 200 metres from the polling station premises.

To facilitate a simpler user interface, a single-point new integrated dashboard, ECINET, has been developed with the aim of providing all services for all stakeholders at a single point instead of the existing 40-plus applications.

The poll panel has also initiated direct integration of death registration data from the Registrar General of India to enable timely and verified removal of deceased electors from the rolls.

“A special summary revision has been held ahead of a by-election as prescribed in the law. This is the first such exercise to be conducted ahead of a by-election in decades,” the officials said.

In a move to institutionalise regular interaction with political stakeholders, the EC facilitated 4,719 meetings across the country with participation from more than 28,000 political party representatives.

The Commission has also held consultations here with leaders of recognised political parties, including the AAP, the BJP, the BSP, the CPI(M), and the NPP, with more meetings with the national political parties and State political parties planned after the current bypolls.

A comprehensive training framework has been developed for 28 categories of stakeholders identified across the electoral process. These modules are based on provisions of the Representation of the People Acts, 1950 and 1951; the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960; and the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, along with EC's instructions.

Among other reforms, the EC has implemented biometric attendance at its headquarters, activated the E-Office system, and held regular CEO-level review meetings. These measures are intended to improve internal coordination and operational efficiency.

Published - May 29, 2025 05:27 pm IST

The Link for the Article annexed herein as:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/election-commission-takes-21-initiatives-in-100-days-to-streamline-poll-management/article69633170.ece>

Preshant Bhusan
(TRUE COPY)

IN THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

I.A. NO. _____ OF 2025

IN

WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. _____ OF 2025

(PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION)

IN THE MATTER OF:

ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORMS & ORS.

...PETITIONERS

VERSUS

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

....RESPONDENT

APPLICATION FOR STAY

TO,

THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

AND HIS HON'BLE COMPANION JUSTICES OF THE HON'BLE

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA.

THE HUMBLE APPLICATION OF THE
APPLICANT ABOVE-NAMED;

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. The present Writ Petition has been filed under Article 32 of the Constitution of India seeking setting aside of Order and Communication dated 24.06.2025 issued by the Respondent Election Commission of India (ECI) directing for Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls in Bihar as being in violation of Articles 14, 19, 21, 325 and 326 of the Constitution of India as well as provisions of Representation of People's Act, 1950 and Rule 21A of

the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. The SIR order dated 24.06.2025 if not set aside, can arbitrarily and without due process disenfranchise lakhs of citizens from electing their representatives, thereby disrupting free and fair elections and democracy in the country, which are part of basic structure of the Constitution. That the documentation requirements of the directive, lack of due process as well as the unreasonably short timeline for the said Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Roll in Bihar further make this exercise bound to result in removal of names of lakhs of genuine voters from electoral rolls leading to their disenfranchisement.

- 2.** The Applicants in the instant Application for Interim Relief are seeking a direction to the ECI to pass direction staying the implementation of order dated 24.06.2025 as well as communication dated 24.06.2025 issued by ECI to conduct Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar.
- 3.** That the order dated 24.06.2025 issued by ECI has shifted the onus of being on the voters' list from the State to citizens. It has excluded identification documents such as Aadhar or ration cards which further make marginalised communities and the poor more vulnerable to exclusion from voting. The Declaration as required under the SIR process is violative of Article 326 in so far as it requires a voter to provide documents to prove his/her citizenship and also citizenships of his/her mother or father, failing which his/her name would not be added to the draft electoral roll and can be deleted from the same.

4. That ECI has issued unreasonable and impractical timeline to conduct SIR in Bihar with close proximity to state elections which are due in November 2025. There are lakhs of citizens (whose names did not appear in 2003 ER) who do not possess the documents as required under the SIR order, there are many who may be able to procure the documents but the short timeline mentioned in directive may preclude them from being able to supply the same within the time period.
5. Bihar is a state with high poverty and migration rates where many lack access to documents like birth certificates or parental records. As per estimates over 3 crore voters and more particularly from marginalized communities (such as SC, STs and migrant workers) could be excluded from voting due to the stringent requirements as mentioned in the SIR order. That the current reports from Bihar, where SIR is already underway, show that lakhs of voters from villages and marginalized communities do not possess the documents as being sought for them.
6. Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RPA, 1950 allows the ECI to direct a special revision of electoral rolls "*for reasons to be recorded.*" The ECI's directive lacks recorded reasons supported by any evidence or transparent methodology, rendering it arbitrary and thus liable to be struck down. The requirement of citizenship documents contravenes the requirement of specific grounds for deletion of names from electoral rolls (e.g., death, non-residence, or disqualification under Section 16 of RPA, 1950).

- 7.** Since 2003, five general elections and five assembly elections have taken place in Bihar with continuous addition and deletion of names in Bihar's electoral roll. While SIR of Bihar or any other state of country is a positive step , but the manner in which ECI has directed the conduct of SIR in a poll bound state like Bihar, has raised questions from all stakeholders, particularly the voters. Moreover, Special Summary Revision (SSR) was already conducted between October 29, 2024 and January 6, 2025 which addressed issues such as migration and ineligible voters due to death or other reasons. Thus, there is no reason for such a drastic exercise in a poll bound state in such a short period of time, risking violation of right to vote of lakhs of voters.
- 8.** The decision to conduct SIR in Bihar seems to have been taken in a hurried fashion, without many planning or deliberation with stake holders. In May 2025, ECI listed 21 initiatives to "improve voter access" and to "streamline poll management". It is surprising that given the requirement of such drastic change in electoral rolls, the SIR of electoral rolls was not mentioned in the said 21 initiatives nor has there been a mention of any plans for such a mammoth exercise in close proximity to elections in any meeting with any of the stakeholders including in meetings held by ECI with heads of various national parties held in May-June 2025.
- 9.** The grounds for interim direction have been set out in the accompanying writ petition. That the contents of the accompanying may kindly be read as part and parcel of the instant application, and the same are not being repeated herein for the sake of brevity.

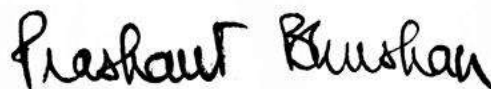
- 10.** That the Applicants have a very good case on merits and balance of convenience also lies in their favour. The present application has been made bona fide and in the interest of justice.

PRAYER

In view of the facts and circumstances stated hereinabove, it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Court may graciously be pleased to:

- a. Direct the ECI to pass a direction staying the implementation of order and communication dated 24.06.2025 issued by ECI to conduct Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar;
- b. Pass such other order as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the instant case.

AND FOR THIS ACT OF KINDNESS THE PETITIONER AS IN DUTY BOUND SHALL EVER PRAY.



PRASHANT BHUSHAN
(COUNSEL FOR APPLICANTS)

Place: New Delhi
Date: 04.07.2024

SECTION: PIL**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

(CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)

WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. _____ OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

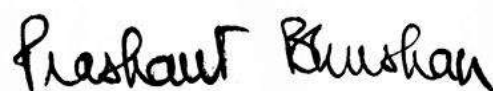
ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORMS & ORS. ... PETITIONER

VERSUS

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA ... RESPONDENTS

FILING INDEX

S. NO.	PARTICULARS	COPIES	C. FEE
1.	WRIT PETITION WITH AFFIDAVIT	1	3020/-
2.	ANNEXURE P1 TO P17	1	NIL
3.	APPLICATION FOR STAY	1	600/-
4.	VAKALATNAMA	1	60/-


PRASHANT BHUSHAN)

COUNSEL FOR THE PETITIONERS

301, NEW LAWYERS CHAMBER

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

NEW DELHI-110 001

CODE NO. 515

NEW DELHI

DATED: 04.07.2025

VAKALATNAMA

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
(CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
WRIT PETITION (C) NO. _____ OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF :

Association For Democratic Reforms

.....Petitioner

Versus

Election Commission of India

.... Respondent

I, **Mr. Jagdeep S. Chhokar**, Founder Trustee of the Applicant/Intervenor, R/o T-95, 2nd Floor, CL House, Gautam Nagar, New Delhi, **Petitioner** in the instant petition, do hereby appoint and retain **Prashant Bhushan** Advocate on Record of the Supreme Court, to act and appear for me/us in the above Petition and on my behalf to conduct and prosecute (or defend) or withdraw the same and all proceedings that may be taken in respect of any application connected with the same or any degree or order passed there in, including proceeding in taxation and application for review, to file and obtain return of document and to deposit and receive money on may/our behalf in the said petition/appeal Reference and application, Review Petition and to represent me/us and to take all necessary steps on may /our behalf in the above matter, I. We agree to rectify all acts done by the aforesaid advocate on record in pursuance of this authority.

Dated 2nd day of June, 2025

Accepted, certified and identified the client.

Prashant Bhushan
(PRASHANT BHUSHAN)
ADVOCATE-ON-RECORD



(Signed)

Jagdeep Chhokar
(JAGDEEP CHHOKAR)
()
Petitioner

MEMO OF APPEARANCE

To,
The Registrar,
Supreme Court of India,
New Delhi,

Sir,

Please enter my appearance on behalf of the Petitioner in the matter mentioned above:
New Delhi dated this, the 4th day of June, 2025

Yours faithfully,

Prashant Bhushan

PRASHANT BHUSHAN
Advocate for the **Petitioner**.
CODE: 515