

Special Intensive Revision Process - Explained

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Special Intensive Revision Latest News

- The Election Commission of India has launched a **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls across the country, beginning with Bihar, to verify voter details and ensure clean and accurate electoral records ahead of upcoming elections.

The Electoral Roll and Its Importance

- The **electoral roll** is the foundation of India's democratic process. It ensures that every eligible citizen has the right to vote while preventing duplication and impersonation.
- The **Election Commission of India** maintains and updates the rolls regularly under the **Representation of the People Act, 1950**.
- Recently, the ECI conducted a **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls in **Bihar**, with plans to extend it nationwide in a phased manner.
- The revision aims to improve accuracy in voter records, eliminate duplicates, and update demographic information before major elections.

- The process underscores the need for clean and updated electoral rolls, a key element in ensuring **free and fair elections**.

The Legal Basis of Electoral Roll Revisions

- Section **21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950**, empowers the ECI to prepare and revise electoral rolls for each constituency.
- Typically, a **summary revision** occurs before every general or by-election. However, the Act also allows the Commission to carry out a **special revision** at any time it deems necessary.
- In June 2025, the ECI issued an order launching a **Special Intensive Revision** across the country, starting with Bihar, where Assembly elections are due in November 2025. The Commission designated **July 1, 2025**, as the qualifying date for inclusion in the rolls.

Understanding the SIR Process

- The SIR process is more detailed than routine revisions. It involves multiple stages:
- **Enumeration Forms Submission:**
 - All registered voters must fill out the enumeration forms to confirm or update their details.
- **Document Verification:**
 - Voters registered after 2003 must provide valid proof of citizenship. The Supreme Court, in its interim order, directed that **Aadhaar** be accepted as one of the valid identity proofs for this purpose.
- **Draft Roll Publication:**
 - Based on the forms and verification, a **draft electoral roll** is published for public review.
- **Claims and Objections:**
 - Citizens are allowed a specified period to file claims for inclusion or raise objections regarding inaccuracies.
- **Verification and Final Roll Publication:**
 - The **Electoral Registration Officers (EROs)** verify all claims and objections. After this scrutiny, the **final electoral roll** is published, as was done in Bihar on **September 30, 2025**.
- The ECI now plans to conduct similar SIR exercises in other states, aligned with their respective election schedules.

Overview of Electoral Forms in India

- The **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 (RER)** prescribes various forms for voter registration, correction, deletion, and transfer.
- Awareness of these forms is essential for citizens to participate meaningfully in the electoral process.
- **Form 6** - Used by new voters (above 18 years) or those shifting constituencies to apply for inclusion in the electoral roll.
- **Form 6A** - Used by **Overseas Electors** (Indian citizens living abroad) to register their names in the electoral rolls of their home constituency.
- **Form 7** - Filed for **deletion of a name** from the electoral roll, for instance, in case of death, duplication, or change of residence.

- **Form 8** - Used to **correct entries** in the existing electoral roll, such as name spelling, address, or age.
- **Form 8A** - Used for **transposition of an elector's name** from one part of a constituency to another (for example, if a voter shifts residence within the same constituency).
- **Form 11 to 13D** - Used by electoral officers and booth-level agents during verification and publication stages of the electoral roll.

Role of Citizens and Political Stakeholders

- The success of the electoral revision process depends not only on the ECI but also on **citizens' active participation**. Voters should:
 - Verify their names and details in the **published draft rolls**.
 - Use the correct **electoral form** to update their information or file claims.
 - Ensure that supporting documents, such as Aadhaar, passport, or voter ID, are properly attached to avoid rejections.
- Political parties and **civil society organisations** play a crucial role in mobilising awareness, especially among marginalised communities, first-time voters, and migrant populations. Their involvement ensures inclusivity in the democratic process.

Significance of Clean Electoral Rolls

- Maintaining accurate electoral rolls is central to the integrity of elections. Outdated or erroneous rolls can lead to **disenfranchisement**, **bogus voting**, or **manipulation**.
- A clean roll ensures that each legitimate vote is counted, and no illegitimate one is cast.
- While critics argue that the SIR process might inconvenience voters due to short timelines, the broader goal remains the creation of a transparent and verifiable electoral base.
- The Supreme Court's order to include **Aadhaar** as a valid document aims to strengthen identity verification, though privacy advocates caution against excessive reliance on biometric data.

Way Forward

- The ECI's move to roll out the SIR nationwide marks a significant effort to **modernise and standardise voter registration**. Future revisions could be made more efficient through:
 - **Phased scheduling** to prevent administrative overload.
 - **Digital verification** linked with Aadhaar and other databases.
 - **Enhanced public awareness** through local campaigns.
- Ensuring inclusive participation, especially of women, youth, and migrant workers, will be vital to building a **comprehensive and accurate electoral roll** ahead of the 2029 general elections.

Source: **TH**

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