



# Amendments in Postal Ballot System

## Why in News

Recently, the Law Ministry has **reduced the age limit for senior citizens** who opt for postal ballot in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

## Key Points

- Now, the **voters aged above 65 years or a Covid-19 suspect** can opt for postal ballot.
- Earlier, in 2019, the Law Ministry had [amended the Conduct of Election Rules to allow persons with disabilities](#) and those **who are 80 years of age** or above to opt for postal ballot during Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.
- Voters of Bihar will be the first to benefit from the amended rules, since Bihar will be the first state to have assembly polls after the coronavirus outbreak in India.

## Postal Ballots System

- Ballot papers are **distributed electronically** to electors and are returned to the election officers via post.
- Currently, only the following voters are allowed to cast their votes through postal ballot:
  - **Service voters** (armed forces, the armed police force of a state and government servants posted abroad),
  - **Voters on election duty,**
  - **Voters above 80 years of age or Persons with Disabilities (PwD),**
  - Voters under **preventive detention.**
- The exception to the above-mentioned category of voters is provided under Section 60 of the **Representation of the People Act, 1951.**

## Representation of the People Act, 1951

- This act provides for the **actual conduct of elections in India.** It deals with the following matters:
  - Details like Qualification and Disqualification of members of both the Houses of Parliament and the State Legislatures,
  - Administrative machinery for conducting elections,
  - Registration of Political parties,
  - Conduct of Elections,
  - Election Disputes,
  - Corrupt practices & Electoral offences, &
  - By-elections.

[Source: IE](#)

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