



3.7 lakh Electors Declared 'Ineligible' in Bihar

Why in News?

The **final Bihar voter list** published on 30th September 2025 has 7.42 crore voters, about 6% less than the 7.89 crore recorded on 24th June 2025, when the [Election Commission of India](#) announced a three-month **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** in the state.

Key Points

- **Deletions and Additions:** 65 lakh names were deleted from the draft roll, with major categories being death, migration, and duplication.
 - 3.66 lakh additional names were removed in the final stage **after claims and objections**.
 - There was a **negligible number of non-citizens** or foreigners removed.
 - 21.53 lakh new voters were added to the final list.
 - The number of electors increased by 17.9 lakh compared to the draft roll (7.2 crore) published on 1st August 2025.
- **Gender Representation:** The percentage of women electors decreased slightly from 47.75% in January to 47.15% after the completion of SIR.
- **Legal Aspects:**
 - **Supreme Court Judgement:** The Court ruled that **Aadhaar would be included** as the 12th document for **proof of identity**, thus raising the bar for exclusions.
 - **Appeal Process:** Voters dissatisfied with deletions can appeal to the **District Magistrate** and the Chief Electoral Officer.

Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls

- **Electoral Rolls:** An [Electoral Roll](#) (also known as a **Voter List** or **Electoral Register**) is the **official list of all eligible and registered voters** within a specific **constituency**.
 - It is used to **verify voter identities** and ensure a **fair and transparent electoral process** during elections.
 - The Electoral Rolls are prepared by the ECI under the [Representation of the People Act \(RP Act\), 1950](#).
 - It excludes **non-citizens** (**Section 16**) and includes **citizens aged 18 or above** who are **ordinarily resident** in the **constituency** (**Section 19**).
- **Special Intensive Revision:** SIR is a **focused, time-bound house-to-house voters' verification** process conducted by **Booth Level Officers (BLOs)** to **update and correct** the **electoral rolls** before major elections.
 - It ensures that the **voter list** is **accurate, inclusive, and free from discrepancies** by allowing **new registrations, deletions, and modifications**.
 - **Section 21** of the **RP Act, 1950** empowers the **ECI** to prepare and **revise electoral rolls**, including conducting a **special revision** at any time with **recorded reasons**.
- **Constitutional Basis of SIR:** [Article 324](#) vests the **ECI** with the power to **supervise and control** the preparation of **electoral rolls** and conduct of elections.
 - **Article 326** guarantees **universal adult suffrage**, allowing **citizens aged 18 and above** to **vote**, unless **disqualified** by law due to **criminal conviction, unsound mind, or corruption**.

- **Article 327** deals with the power of **Parliament** to make provision with respect to **elections to Legislatures**.
- **Article 328** deals with power of the **Legislature of a State** to make provision with respect to **elections to such Legislature**.
- **Judicial Stand:** The Supreme Court in the ***Mohinder Singh Gill v. The Chief Election Commissioner Case, 1977*** upheld the **ECI's broad powers** under **Article 324** to ensure **free and fair elections**, including ordering **re-polls** if needed, and emphasized that **judicial review** is restricted during elections as per **Article 329(b)**.
 - It clarified that **ECI can act independently** if laws under **Articles 327 and 328** are silent on any aspect.
 - It also noted that while **natural justice** is important, the ECI can take **swift and practical decisions** in exceptional situations.
- **Previous Electoral Roll Revision: SIRs** were conducted in **1952-56, 1957, 1961, 1965, 1966, 1983-84, 1987-89, 1992, 1993, 1995, 2002, 2003, and 2004** in various parts of the country. In **Bihar**, the last SIR was held in **2003**.

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