GENERAL STUDIES II

# Electoral Roll Revision in India 2026: Special Summary Revision (SSR) vs Special Intensive Revision (SIR)

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*Electoral Roll Revision UPSC 2026: Learn SSR vs SIR, Article 324, Election Commission updates, voter registration, GS-II notes, Prelims facts and MCQs.*

## Electoral Roll Revision in India 2026: Special Summary Revision (SSR) vs SIR - Complete UPSC Guide for Prelims & Mains

**Quick Summary:** The Election Commission of India has announced a Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls in four States and two Union Territories, with draft rolls scheduled for 30 November 2026 and final rolls for 21 January 2027. This Electoral Roll Revision UPSC guide explains Article 324, the Representation of the People Act, 1950, SSR vs SIR, voter eligibility, Forms 6, 7 and 8, Aadhaar requirements, electoral integrity, GS Paper II Mains analysis and Prelims MCQs.

**Current Affairs Date:** 6 November 2026

**News Source:** The Hindu

**Latest Announcement:** 5 November 2026

**UPSC Syllabus:** GS Paper II - Constitution, Elections, Election Commission, Governance

**Relevant For:** UPSC Prelims, Mains, State PCS, Political Science

**Important Articles:** Articles 324, 325, 326 and 327

**Important Legislation:** Representation of the People Act, 1950

**Primary Keyword:** Electoral Roll Revision UPSC 2026

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## 1. What is Electoral Roll Revision? - Definition and Meaning

**Electoral Roll Revision** is the process of updating and verifying the official list of eligible voters in an electoral constituency. The electoral roll contains the names and prescribed particulars of persons entitled to vote in elections.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) supervises the preparation and revision of electoral rolls under **Article 324** of the Indian Constitution and the provisions of the **Representation of the People Act, 1950**.

The main objective of revision is to ensure that eligible citizens are included while identifying duplicate, outdated and otherwise ineligible entries through legally prescribed procedures.

### Simple Definition for UPSC

Electoral Roll Revision is the systematic updating of voter lists to maintain their accuracy, inclusiveness and reliability.

**UPSC Keywords:** Universal Adult Franchise, Electoral Integrity, Democratic Participation, Free and Fair Elections, Voter Inclusion and Election Commission.

In India, citizens who have attained 18 years of age on an applicable qualifying date and satisfy the other statutory conditions can register as voters in the constituency where they are ordinarily resident.

Electoral rolls require periodic revision because people become eligible to vote, migrate, change addresses or die. Inaccurate records may result in wrongful exclusion, duplicate enrolment or administrative difficulties.

The Electoral Roll Revision UPSC 2026 topic is particularly significant because of ongoing debates surrounding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), electoral transparency and protection against wrongful deletion of voters.

## 2. Background and History of Electoral Roll Revision in India

India adopted **Universal Adult Franchise** at the commencement of its constitutional democracy in 1950. Unlike several other democracies that expanded voting rights gradually, India provided adult citizens with voting rights without property, education or income qualifications.

Initially, the minimum voting age was 21 years. The **61st Constitutional Amendment Act, 1988** reduced the voting age to 18 years, expanding democratic participation among young citizens.

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The Representation of the People Act, 1950 established the statutory framework for electoral rolls, while the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 provided detailed procedures for preparation, publication, claims, objections and revision.

### Important Historical Developments

| Year | Development |
|---|---|
| 1950 | Constitution established the Election Commission under Article 324. |
| 1950 | Representation of the People Act, 1950 enacted. |
| 1960 | Registration of Electors Rules framed. |
| 1988 | 61st Constitutional Amendment reduced voting age from 21 to 18 years. |
| 2021 | Election Laws (Amendment) Act introduced provisions relating to Aadhaar information and multiple qualifying dates. |
| 2025-26 | Special Intensive Revision exercise and associated legal debates gained national attention. |
| November 2026 | ECI announced Special Summary Revision in four States and two Union Territories. |

The historical evolution of electoral registration reflects India's continuing efforts to combine the principle of universal adult franchise with administrative accuracy and electoral credibility.

## Key Features of Electoral Roll Revision

- **Inclusion of Eligible Voters:** Citizens who attain voting age and meet statutory requirements can apply for registration.
- **Removal of Ineligible Entries:** Duplicate entries and entries relating to deceased or otherwise ineligible persons may be removed through prescribed procedures.
- **Correction of Voter Information:** Electors may request corrections to entries such as name, age and address.
- **Public Verification:** Draft electoral rolls are published for public examination and submission of claims and objections.
- **Role of Booth Level Officers:** BLOs assist with field verification, voter outreach and registration-related activities.
- **Political Party Participation:** Recognised political parties participate through designated booth-level agents and access to roll-related information.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Claims, objections and proposed deletions are subject to prescribed verification procedures.
- **Digital Electoral Services:** Online services facilitate new registrations, corrections, shifting of residence and voter-status verification.

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## 4. Why in News? Latest Electoral Roll Revision Current Affairs 2025-26

### Election Commission Announces Special Summary Revision

On **5 November 2026**, the Election Commission of India announced a Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls in four States and two Union Territories.

The development was covered in The Hindu on 6 November 2026 and is important for the Electoral Roll Revision UPSC 2026 current affairs syllabus.

The exercise follows the completion of Special Intensive Revision activities in the concerned regions. It aims to update electoral rolls while protecting eligible voters against wrongful exclusion.

### Four States

- Arunachal Pradesh
- Mizoram
- Odisha
- Sikkim

### Two Union Territories

- Chandigarh
- Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu

The ECI fixed **1 January 2027** as the primary qualifying date for this revision.

Eligible citizens who will attain voting age on 1 April, 1 July or 1 October 2027 may also submit advance applications under the multiple qualifying-date framework.

### Official Revision Schedule

| Activity | Scheduled Date |
|---|---|
| Reference qualifying date | **1 January 2027** |
| Polling station rationalisation | By 20 November 2026 |
| Publication of draft electoral rolls | **30 November 2026** |
| Period for claims and objections | 30 November - 30 December 2026 |
| Disposal of claims and objections | By 16 January 2027 |
| Final publication of electoral rolls | **21 January 2027** |

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### Important Safeguards Announced by ECI

**1. Aadhaar Voluntary:** Providing Aadhaar details in Forms 6 and 8 remains voluntary. An application cannot be rejected, nor can an existing entry be deleted, solely for failure to provide an Aadhaar number.

**2. Scrutiny of Bulk Deletions:** Electoral Registration Officers must personally cross-check cases where proposed deletions exceed 2% of electors at a polling station.

**3. Multiple Objections:** Additional verification is required when an individual files more than five objections.

**4. Form 7 Restrictions:** Individuals cannot submit more than ten Form 7 deletion applications during the claims and objections period under the announced safeguards.

**5. Polling Station Accessibility:** The ECI directed that polling stations should ordinarily have no more than 1,200 electors without prior approval and that voters should not need to travel more than two kilometres.

**6. Inclusive Outreach:** Special attention is to be given to migrants, homeless persons, women, transgender persons, Scheduled Tribes, senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

### Why the 2026 Development Matters

The November announcement comes amid continuing legal and political debates surrounding the Special Intensive Revision process.

Concerns have been raised about documentary requirements, transparency, administrative capacity and the possible exclusion of otherwise eligible voters.

The latest SSR safeguards seek to balance two democratic objectives: preventing inaccuracies in voter lists while ensuring that eligible citizens are not unjustly deprived of electoral participation.

## 5. Special Summary Revision (SSR) vs Special Intensive Revision (SIR)

The difference between SSR and SIR is one of the most important conceptual areas in Electoral Roll Revision UPSC preparation.

Both are mechanisms for updating voter lists, but their procedures and intensity of verification differ.

| Basis | SSR | SIR |
|---|---|---|
| **Full Form** | Special Summary Revision | Special Intensive Revision |
| **Nature** | Updating existing electoral rolls | More extensive verification and reconstruction |
| **Starting Point** | Existing electoral roll | Fresh enumeration and verification process |
| **Existing Voters** | Generally retained in draft rolls, subject to lawful corrections and deletions | May be required to participate in a fresh verification exercise |
| **Verification** | Targeted changes, claims and objections | Broader verification according to ECI directions |

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|---|---|---|
| **Administrative Intensity** | Relatively limited | Relatively extensive |
| **Key Concern** | Timely and accurate updating | Preventing exclusion during extensive verification |

**UPSC Prelims Tip:** SSR primarily updates existing voter rolls, whereas SIR involves a more intensive verification exercise. Neither process removes the requirement to follow applicable electoral laws and procedural safeguards.

## 6. Constitutional and Legal Framework of Electoral Roll Revision

The Constitution establishes the fundamental principles governing elections, while parliamentary legislation provides detailed procedures for electoral registration.

| Article | Provision |
|---|---|
| **Article 324** | Superintendence, direction and control of electoral rolls and specified elections vested in ECI. |
| **Article 325** | One general electoral roll, prohibition of exclusion solely on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex. |
| **Article 326** | Elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies based on adult suffrage. |
| **Article 327** | Parliament's power to legislate on elections. |
| **Article 329** | Restrictions on judicial interference in specified electoral matters. |

### Representation of the People Act, 1950

- **Section 19:** Conditions of registration, including qualifying age and ordinary residence.
- **Section 20:** Meaning of ordinary residence.
- **Section 21:** Preparation and revision of electoral rolls.
- **Section 22:** Correction of entries in electoral rolls.
- **Section 23:** Inclusion of names in electoral rolls.
- **Section 24:** Appeals against specified decisions relating to electoral rolls.

### Important Supreme Court Cases

**Mohinder Singh Gill v. Chief Election Commissioner (1978):** Explained the broad constitutional responsibility of the Election Commission concerning free and fair elections.

**A.C. Jose v. Sivan Pillai (1984):** Clarified that the Election Commission must operate within the framework of applicable legislation and rules.

**People's Union for Civil Liberties v. Union of India (2013):** Recognised the importance of voter choice and directed the introduction of the NOTA option.

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These judgments demonstrate that electoral administration involves both institutional independence and compliance with constitutional and statutory safeguards.

## 7. Important Electoral Registration Forms

Knowledge of voter registration forms is essential for Electoral Roll Revision UPSC Prelims because the examination frequently tests institutions, statutory procedures and citizen rights.

| Form | Purpose |
|---|---|
| **Form 6** | New voter registration. |
| **Form 6A** | Registration of eligible overseas Indian electors. |
| **Form 7** | Objection to proposed inclusion or request for deletion. |
| **Form 8** | Shifting of residence, correction of entries, replacement EPIC or PwD marking. |

Eligible voters can apply through the Election Commission's official voter services portal at voters.eci.gov.in.

## 8. UPSC Prelims - Important Facts

| Aspect | Details |
|---|---|
| Constitutional Authority | Election Commission of India |
| Constitutional Article | Article 324 |
| Adult Suffrage | Article 326 |
| Minimum Voting Age | 18 years |
| Voting Age Amendment | 61st Constitutional Amendment Act, 1988 |
| Primary Electoral Roll Law | Representation of the People Act, 1950 |
| Revision Provision | Section 21, RPA 1950 |
| Qualifying Dates | 1 January, 1 April, 1 July, 1 October |
| New Registration | Form 6 |
| Deletion Application | Form 7 |
| Correction / Shifting | Form 8 |
| SSR 2026 Draft Rolls | 30 November 2026 |
| SSR Final Rolls | 21 January 2027 |

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**Important Prelims Trap:** The Election Commission of India is a constitutional body, not a ministry. Article 324 provides its constitutional authority. Electoral roll registration is primarily governed by the Representation of the People Act, 1950, not the Act of 1951.

## 9. UPSC Mains Perspective - GS Paper II

**GS Mapping:** GS Paper II - Constitution, Election Commission, Statutory Framework, Governance, Democratic Rights and Institutional Accountability.

Electoral Roll Revision UPSC Mains questions can examine the relationship between the accuracy of electoral records, universal adult franchise, voter inclusion and the Election Commission's constitutional responsibility.

### Expected UPSC Mains Question

**"Electoral roll revision is essential for electoral integrity, but its implementation must safeguard the principle of universal adult franchise." Critically examine. (250 words, 15 marks)**

### Model Answer

**Introduction:** Electoral roll revision is a statutory and administrative mechanism to maintain accurate voter registers. Article 324 empowers the Election Commission to supervise electoral rolls, while Article 326 establishes adult suffrage for elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.

**Significance:** Revision helps register newly eligible citizens, remove duplicate and outdated entries, correct voter information and strengthen public confidence in elections.

**Democratic Inclusion:** Accurate electoral rolls enable citizens to participate effectively in representative democracy. Inclusion of women, migrants, disadvantaged communities and first-time voters is particularly important.

**Challenges:** Extensive documentation requirements, administrative errors, digital exclusion and inadequate verification may result in wrongful deletion of eligible voters.

**Institutional Responsibility:** The Election Commission must balance electoral integrity with fairness, transparency and accessibility. Its procedures should follow statutory safeguards and allow meaningful remedies against incorrect decisions.

**Way Forward:** Transparent deletion procedures, accessible appeals, public outreach, reliable digital systems and careful field verification can improve both accuracy and inclusion.

**Conclusion:** Electoral roll revision must strengthen democracy rather than create barriers to participation. A credible electoral system requires both reliable voter lists and effective protection of every eligible citizen's electoral rights.

### Keywords for High-Scoring Mains Answers

- Universal Adult Franchise
- Free and Fair Elections

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- Electoral Integrity
- Constitutional Democracy
- Institutional Independence
- Electoral Inclusion
- Transparency and Accountability
- Procedural Fairness

## 10. Challenges and Issues Related to Electoral Roll Revision

- **Wrongful Exclusion:** Administrative mistakes or insufficient verification may remove eligible voters from electoral rolls.
- **Documentation Barriers:** Citizens lacking readily available documents may face difficulties during intensive verification exercises.
- **Migration and Urbanisation:** Frequent movement between constituencies complicates voter registration and residence verification.
- **Digital Divide:** Limited internet access and digital literacy can reduce access to online electoral services.
- **Bulk Objections:** Improper or fraudulent objections may create risks of unnecessary or wrongful deletion.
- **Administrative Capacity:** Large-scale verification requires trained field staff, sufficient resources and effective supervision.
- **Public Trust:** Lack of clarity about revision procedures may create political controversy and undermine confidence in electoral institutions.

## 11. Way Forward - Electoral Reforms and Government Initiatives

- **Transparent Verification:** Clearly communicate the procedures and grounds for inclusion, correction and deletion of voter entries.
- **Protection Against Wrongful Deletion:** Ensure that objections and proposed deletions undergo appropriate field verification.
- **Accessible Appeals:** Provide timely and effective remedies for citizens affected by incorrect electoral roll decisions.
- **Digital and Offline Services:** Maintain both accessible digital registration platforms and physical assistance centres.
- **Training of BLOs:** Strengthen field-level understanding of eligibility rules, evidence assessment and procedural fairness.
- **Inclusive Outreach:** Organise special registration drives for youth, migrants, women, senior citizens, PwDs and marginalised communities.
- **Privacy Safeguards:** Protect personal information collected during registration and verification.
- **Political Party Participation:** Encourage transparent cooperation among election officials, political parties and civil society organisations.

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The recommendations of the Law Commission of India, including its 255th Report on Electoral Reforms, provide a broader framework for examining electoral administration, accountability and improvements to India's democratic system.

## 12. UPSC Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

### UPSC Mains 2017 - GS Paper II

**Question:** "To enhance the quality of democracy in India the Election Commission of India has proposed electoral reforms in 2016. What are the suggested reforms and how far are they significant to make democracy successful?"

**Relevance:** Connect electoral roll accuracy, inclusion, transparency and accountability with wider electoral reforms.

### UPSC Mains 2018 - GS Paper II

**Question:** "In the light of recent controversy regarding the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM), what are the challenges before the Election Commission of India to ensure the trustworthiness of elections in India?"

**Relevance:** Discuss institutional credibility, electoral transparency, effective safeguards and public confidence.

### Expected UPSC Mains Question - 2027

**"Distinguish between Special Summary Revision and Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. Examine their implications for electoral integrity and universal adult franchise."**

**Suggested Approach:** Define both processes, mention Article 324 and the RPA 1950, analyse inclusion and exclusion risks, and conclude with safeguards for transparent electoral administration.

## 13. Practice MCQs for UPSC Prelims

**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding electoral roll revision in India:**

1. Article 324 empowers the Election Commission to supervise electoral rolls.
2. The Representation of the People Act, 1950 provides the statutory framework for electoral registration.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A) 1 only
B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2
D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: C - Both statements are correct.** Article 324 provides constitutional authority, while the RPA 1950 establishes the statutory framework.

**Q2. Which form is used to apply for deletion of a name from an electoral roll?**

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A) Form 6
B) Form 6A
C) Form 7
D) Form 8

**Answer: C - Form 7.** Form 7 is used for objection to proposed inclusion or deletion of an electoral roll entry.

**Q3. Which of the following correctly describes the difference between SSR and SIR?**

A) SSR updates existing voter rolls, whereas SIR involves more intensive verification.
B) SSR is conducted by Parliament and SIR by the judiciary.
C) SSR applies only to Lok Sabha elections.
D) SIR is conducted by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

**Answer: A.** Both revision processes are conducted within the electoral administration framework under the ECI.

**Q4. Which constitutional amendment reduced the voting age from 21 to 18 years?**

A) 42nd Amendment
B) 44th Amendment
C) 61st Amendment
D) 73rd Amendment

**Answer: C - 61st Constitutional Amendment Act, 1988.** It amended Article 326 and expanded electoral participation among younger citizens.

**Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the November 2026 SSR:**

1. The exercise covers four States and two Union Territories.
2. The draft electoral rolls are scheduled for 30 November 2026.
3. Aadhaar details are compulsory for all new voter registration applications.

Select the correct answer:

A) 1 and 2 only
B) 2 and 3 only
C) 1 and 3 only
D) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: A - 1 and 2 only.** Aadhaar submission remains voluntary under the announced SSR safeguards.

## 14. Conclusion - Importance of Electoral Roll Revision for Indian Democracy

Electoral roll revision is fundamental to ensuring free, fair and credible elections in India. It helps preserve the accuracy of voter registers while facilitating democratic participation by eligible citizens.

The Election Commission's November 2026 announcement highlights the importance of balancing electoral integrity with the constitutional principle of universal adult franchise.

For UPSC aspirants, the topic connects constitutional law, electoral governance, statutory procedures, public administration and institutional accountability.

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The central lesson is that electoral reform must simultaneously strengthen the accuracy of voter lists and protect eligible citizens from unjustified exclusion.

> **One-Line UPSC Revision:** Electoral Roll Revision under Article 324 and the RPA 1950 aims to maintain accurate and inclusive voter lists; the November 2026 SSR covers four States and two UTs, with final rolls scheduled for 21 January 2027.

## 15. Frequently Asked Questions - Electoral Roll Revision UPSC

### Q1. What is Electoral Roll Revision?

It is the process of updating voter lists by including eligible citizens, correcting entries and removing ineligible entries through prescribed legal procedures.

### Q2. Which constitutional Article governs electoral roll preparation?

Article 324 vests the superintendence, direction and control of electoral roll preparation in the Election Commission of India.

### Q3. What is the difference between SSR and SIR?

SSR updates existing electoral rolls, while SIR involves a more intensive verification and enumeration process.

### Q4. What is the voting age in India?

The minimum voting age is 18 years, subject to the applicable qualifying date and statutory eligibility requirements.

### Q5. Is Aadhaar mandatory for voter registration?

No. Under the November 2026 SSR instructions, furnishing Aadhaar details in Forms 6 and 8 remains voluntary, and non-submission alone cannot justify rejection or deletion.

### Q6. Which GS Paper covers Electoral Roll Revision UPSC?

Primarily GS Paper II, including the Constitution, Election Commission, elections, governance and electoral reforms.

### Q7. When will the 2026 SSR final electoral rolls be published?

Under the announced schedule for the four States and two Union Territories, final rolls are scheduled for 21 January 2027.

## 16. References and Further Reading

- Election Commission of India - Official Website
- ECI Voters' Services Portal
- Election Commission - Voter Registration Guidelines
- India Code - Representation of the People Act, 1950
- The Hindu - Electoral Roll Revision Coverage, 6 November 2026

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- UPSC Official Previous Question Papers

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