

THE HINDU UPSC IAS EDITION HD 08~11~2025

-:FOR UPSC IAS ASPIRANTS:-

"AVOID POLITICAL & IRRELEVANT ARTICLES"

Please Try To Read This Completely in 45 Minutes If You

Can't So Then You Have To Increase Your Efforts

All the topics of this UPSC IAS Edition are directly or indirectly important for the prelims & main examination.

There are some topics which can be coded in answer writing of other topics in the main exam.

Remove stray dogs from public places, orders SC

Court directs neutering and vaccination of dogs before relocating them to a shelter; it says public institutions must be secured to prevent entry of animals, orders removal of cattle from highways

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

Expressing concern over the "disturbing increase" in dog-bite incidents across the country, the Supreme Court on Friday directed all the States and the Union Territories to "forthwith" remove stray dogs from educational institutions, hospitals, sports complexes, bus stands and depots, and railway stations, and relocate them "to a designated shelter". The dogs have to be sterilised and vaccinated in accordance with the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023 before relocation.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and N.V. Anjaria directed that stray canines removed from such premises shall



Canine raid: The court directed that dogs removed from a place should not be released into the same locality. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

not be released back into the same locality. "We have consciously directed the non-release of such stray dogs to the same location from which they were picked up, as permitting the same would frustrate the very effect of the directions issued to liberate such institutional areas from the presence of stray

dogs," the Bench said.

The directions were issued in the apex court's *suo motu* proceedings aimed at framing a national framework for stray dog management and ensuring compliance with existing statutory regulations.

Placing the responsibility of implementation on local bodies, the court di-

rected the respective municipal authorities to ensure the immediate removal of stray dogs and to submit compliance reports within eight weeks, detailing the remedial measures undertaken to secure adherence to the court's directions.

'Frequent accidents'

Also, the Bench acknowledged that accidents involving cattle and stray animals on roads have become "alarmingly frequent". It directed the National Highways Authority of India, and transport and municipal authorities to ensure the removal of cattle and other stray animals from the highways.

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MCD TO MAKE DOG SHELTERS

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SC to hear on Nov. 11 pleas challenging legality of SIR

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday urgently listed on November 11 detailed arguments addressing the very legality of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The Election Commission kicked off the exercise in Bihar on June 24 ahead of the Assembly poll and, in the second phase, has planned to cover 51 crore voters in 12 States and UTs, including Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala and Puducherry.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi fixed the case for 11.15 a.m. on November 11.

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Turnout bump

Voter awareness clearly surged following the SIR controversy

The first phase of Bihar's Assembly elections on Thursday witnessed a heartening democratic statistic – an impressive voter turnout across 121 constituencies. Provisional estimates have placed the figure at 64.69%, which may rise further as complete data emerge from all polling booths. These same constituencies have consistently recorded turnouts between 55.4% and 55.85% across the last four polls – Assembly and general elections. The nearly nine percentage point jump signals a reinvigorated engagement with the electoral process. The numbers reveal a more compelling story. Despite the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process reducing registered electors from 3.88 crore in the 2024 general election to 3.73 crore now, the actual voter count surged from 2.15 crore to a provisional 2.42 crore. Predictably, the ruling coalition has rushed to attribute the surge to popular welfare schemes, framing it as pro-incumbency sentiment, while the Opposition has interpreted it as anti-incumbency fervour and a hunger for change. However, drawing definitive conclusions from turnout figures alone would be premature.

Academic studies have shown that there has been little correlation between increased voter participation and anti- or pro-incumbency in Assembly elections. But disaggregated data could offer insights. A spike in women's participation might validate the impact of cash transfer schemes implemented on the eve of the elections by the Nitish Kumar-led government. Conversely, increased youth voting could reflect a yearning for change in a State where unemployment and large-scale migration remain persistent concerns. But the Election Commission of India (ECI) has not yet released gender-based turnout data, leaving such analysis in the realm of speculation. What seems indisputable is that the heightened discourse around the SIR process played a role. The Opposition's Voter Adhikar Yatra and sustained focus on voter roll issues appear to have sensitised citizens about the sanctity of their franchise. A day before polling, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, raised concerns about electoral roll discrepancies in Haryana, alleging inadequate action by the ECI. Bihar's first-phase turnout offers an instructive lesson: concerns about electoral processes are most effectively addressed not merely through criticism but by mobilising organisational machinery to educate and energise voters about registration and participation. The Congress and other Opposition parties would do well to channel their apprehensions about electoral integrity into systematic grassroots work that empowers citizens to claim their democratic rights – a strategy that could possibly yield tangible results at the ballot box while strengthening democratic institutions.

A wider SIR has momentum but it is still a test case

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has now rolled into another batch of States and Union Territories after creating a new electoral roll in Bihar, a State which is now in the midst of its elections. The Election Commission of India (ECI)-ordered SIR in nine States and three Union Territories, as part of a staggered pan-India exercise, began on November 4, 2025. Being held in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat and the Union Territories of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and Puducherry, this phase includes some States which go to the polls next year, but excludes Assam (also poll-going), where issues of citizenship are on a different legal track.

The post-enumeration draft roll will be released on December 9, while the final roll will be released on February 7, 2026. This is only the ninth SIR in India's 75-year-old electoral history and the first one after 21 years. In June 2025, the ECI had decided to commence intensive revision 'in the entire country', also confirming that the schedule for all States 'shall be issued separately' after dealing with the immediate demands of Bihar. The ECI has ordered the respective governments to provide the workforce for SIR operations and not shift any officials connected with SIR work.

No one size fits all

Under this SIR, 51 crore electors will be brought under intensive review – more than half the country's total electorate, spreading over 321 districts and 1,843 Assembly constituencies. It will involve 5.33 lakh polling stations and an equal number of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and over 7.64 lakh booth level agents of political parties – a number which should see an upsurge as parties would be keen to safeguard their interests.

No two elections in India's long history of 18 national and over 400 Assembly elections were the same. This applies equally to the SIR in terms of upcoming challenges. The current ruling dispensations in Tamil Nadu and Kerala have taken a dim view of the SIR. The responses from West Bengal, with 7.7 crore electors, have been more combative; it is also a State with a large



Akshay Rout

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An electoral roll that has been intensely revised must be accepted, and political parties and the Election Commission should focus on upholding the trust of the Indian voter

number of constituencies bordering Bangladesh, where the issues of infiltration and citizenship are in focus. Uttar Pradesh, with 15.44 crore electors, and social complexities will not be a cakewalk either. The burden of migrations that electoral roll managers faced in Bihar does not hold true in other States. The efficiency of past summary revisions could differ from State to State, determining the quantum of the task. A statutory process such as a SIR has a certain uncompromising standardisation, but procedures may still require local customisation.

A friendlier template

Bihar was a tough assignment being the first SIR exercise after two decades, and which saw protests and doubts. The foundational lines have been drawn now. Article 326 of the Constitution that defines an elector is getting highlighted as an equal truth as Article 324 in running elections. A SIR is legitimate but genuine electors need to be facilitated using a time frame that is adequate.

Transparency levels should satisfy citizen and political party. The clear order from the ECI, that "No document is to be collected from electors during the Enumeration Phase", should be a respite for millions of ordinary voters who are apprehensive the moment the word 'document' is mentioned. The draft roll will include all those whose signed enumeration forms, further rationalised and partly pre-filled, are received.

Only those electors whose names could not be matched/linked with previous SIR will be notified and heard before the registration official who decides on either inclusion or exclusion. Three visits to the house of each elector by the BLO is reassuring. The familiar Form 6 for new enrolment, Form 7 for deletion and Form 8 for correction will remain in place. Critics of the SIR have reasons to be satisfied with the modifications they could orchestrate; they should walk the next steps without grudge or imaginary fear.

Electoral roll management, largely a technical exercise, becomes cluttered when it becomes an echo chamber for issues such as infiltration or disenfranchisement that are hyped. The SIR is essentially a clean up exercise. The pan-India picture will hopefully not cause any shock this time. The bulk of exclusion will always come from

death, absence, shifting or duplication. The SIR method is different but complementary to the ECI's innovative efforts in a mobilisation of voters for registration and turnout in recent years. Voter turnout in the first phase of the Bihar election has proved this. The Supreme Court of India and other stakeholders have been concerned that the right of any voter should not be denied while trimming the flab. Under the SIR, BLOs have been specially directed to have at least 30 blank forms to facilitate the enrolment of new voters.

An issue past debate

The SIR is a *fait accompli* and is past debate. An electoral roll that has been intensely revised is now a reality right up to polling day and the polling compartment. Political parties have changed their tune. From the 'Stop SIR' call, political parties are moving to make the best out of the exercise, even if they maintain their ideological opposition to it and still explore legal remedies. If parties in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal have genuine fears about the exclusion of eligible people even as they go ahead with poll preparation, they need to act. They need to participate in the implementation of the SIR and make use of the decentralised structure of checks and balances and grievance mitigation.

More than the Supreme Court's sanction of the legitimacy of the SIR process, it is the 'zero appeals' in the Bihar process and field-level collaboration seen by party functionaries (notwithstanding political statements at the top) which will make election managers feel more confident in taking the SIR forward. When asked about possible resistance from States such as West Bengal, the Chief Election Commissioner, Gyanesh Kumar, pointed to the architecture of constitutional roles and duties and hoped for its seamless working.

While the fundamentals of the SIR have been validated, there will be hurdles in the execution in scale. It is here that the ECI will need to show skill and empathy. The ECI's legacy of competence demands that it should work continuously to uphold the trust of voters. It won the trial in Bihar and the new pan-India SIR will be another test case.

The views expressed are personal

From Page One

Remove stray dogs from public places, orders SC

The matter will be taken up again on January 13, 2026.

All local self-government institutions have been directed to ensure that the premises of such establishments are properly secured with fencing, boundary walls, and gates to prevent the ingress of stray animals.

This will be preceded by a survey conducted by State governments, to be completed within two weeks, identifying all government and private educational institutions from where stray canines have to be removed.

The Bench also mandated that each institution designate a nodal officer for upkeep and surveillance of each such premises. It has also ordered the conduct of regular inspections at least once every three months, to ensure that no stray canines exist within or in the immediate vicinity of such institutions.

SC to hear petitions on legality of SIR on Nov. 11

The SIR case had been listed earlier on November 4. However, the two judges could not take it up on November 4 as they were part of a Constitution Bench hearing another case on that day.

Simultaneously, a separate mentioning was made in the morning before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai by advocate Vivek Singh appearing for Tamil Nadu's ruling party Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), which has also challenged the SIR's constitutionality. The Chief Justice told Mr. Singh that the case would be listed for hearing on November 11. It is highly likely that the DMK petition, which is a fresh one, would also come up before Justice Kant's Bench, along with the other pending petitions in the case.

The DMK has described the SIR as a thinly-disguised, de facto National Register of Citizens (NRC) set to disenfranchise lakhs of voters and disrupt free and fair elections and democracy in the country, which are part of the basic structure of the Constitution.

SC pushes for reform of colonial-era property laws

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, in a judgment on Friday, said that buying and selling property in India are "traumatic" experiences, noting that property disputes account for 66% of civil litigation in the country.

The court directed the Law Commission of India to prepare a report on restructuring century-old colonial-era laws governing property transactions, including the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, the Registration Act, 1908, and the Stamp Act, 1899, to align them with modern technology.

"Property purchase has not been easy, it is not difficult to find people grudgingly telling us that it is in fact traumatic," Justice P.S. Narasimha said.

Registration process varies across the country as land is a 'State subject' under the Constitution

Justice Narasimha, sitting on the Bench with Justice Joymalya Bagchi, identified fake documentation, land encroachments, delayed verification processes, the role of "intermediaries" in property purchases, red tape at registrar offices, and even the requirement of two witnesses for document verification as some of the factors delaying or hindering property transactions. Registration procedures also vary from State to State, as land is a "State subject" under the Constitution.

"The constitutionally protected right to own im-

movable property inherently includes the freedom to freely acquire, possess and dispose of it at will. The efficiency and transparency with which immovable property is bought and sold is demonstrative of a nation's institutional maturity," Justice Narasimha observed.

Adopt blockchain tech

The court asked the Centre to take the lead in adopting blockchain technology to make the property registration process transparent and easier.

"Blockchain technology is said to offer an alternative paradigm by encoding land titles, ownership histories, encumbrances, and by recording transfers on a distributed ledger in an immutable and time-stamped form," Justice Narasimha noted.

HAL inks \$1-billion deal with GE Aerospace for 113 fighter jet engines

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on Friday sealed a \$1-billion deal with American defence major GE Aerospace to procure 113 jet engines for its Tejas light combat aircraft programme.

The firming up of the deal came notwithstanding a downturn in India-U.S. relations after the Trump administration slapped a 50% tariff on Indian goods.

Under the deal, the delivery of the F404-GE-IN20 engines will begin from 2027 and the supplies will have to be completed by 2032, officials said.

The size of the deal is learnt to be close to \$1 billion (approximately ₹8,870

Clandestine nuclear activities align with history of Pak.: MEA

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Pakistan's nuclear weapons research has been supported by "decades of smuggling" and opaque partnership, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday.

The Indian response came days after U.S. President Donald Trump cited reported nuclear testing by Pakistan and several other countries to justify his call for resumption of testing of U.S. nuclear arsenal.

"Clandestine and illegal nuclear activities are in keeping with Pakistan's history, that is centred around decades of smuggling, export control violations, secret partnerships, A.Q. Khan network and further proliferation," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"India has always drawn the attention of the international community to these aspects of Pakistan's records in this backdrop, we have taken note of President Trump's comment about Pakistan's nuclear testing," Mr. Jaiswal said.

Pak. rejects statement

Pakistan countered that India was distorting facts and misrepresenting Mr. Trump's remarks. Pakistan said it "had last conducted nuclear tests in 1998 and had been supporting UN resolutions seeking a comprehensive ban."

"The allegations are baseless, malicious, and part of India's disinformation campaign aimed at diverting attention from its own irresponsible conduct," the country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.



The Tejas light combat aircraft.

crore). HAL said it has entered into an agreement with General Electric Company to acquire the engines and support package for execution of 97 Light Combat Aircraft MkIA programme.

The Defence Ministry in September had finalised a ₹62,370-crore deal with the state-owned aerospace major to procure 97 Tejas MK-1A light combat aircraft for the Indian Air Force.

PM says *Vande Mataram* was fragmented in 1937

Congress adopted a truncated version as the National Song in 1937; 'crucial verses' were dropped, says Modi, arguing that the 'same divisive thinking remains a challenge for the country today'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opening a new front against the Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Friday that "crucial" verses of *Vande Mataram* were removed in 1937, fragmenting the song, and sowing the seeds of the country's partition.

In 1937, the Congress adopted a truncated version of *Vande Mataram* as the country's National Song, dropping four of the original six stanzas, he said.

"The spirit of *Vande Mataram* illuminated the entire nation during the freedom struggle. But unfortunately, in 1937, crucial verses of *Vande Mataram*, a part of its soul, were severed. *Vande Mataram* was broken, it was torn into pieces. This division of *Vande Mataram* also sowed the seeds of division of the country" the PM said.

Speaking at an event to celebrate 150 years of the National Song, Mr. Modi said that today's generation must understand this history, "because that same divisive thinking re-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at the release of commemorative coins on Friday. ANI

mains a challenge for the country even today".

Truncated version

Vande Mataram was written by Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay on November 7, 1875. It was first published in the literary journal *Bangadarshan* as part of his novel *Anandamath*. A truncated version of *Vande Mataram*, keeping only the first two of the original six stanzas, was chosen as the National Song in 1937 by the Congress on the recommendations of a committee. On 24 January 1950, the Constituent Assembly adopted it as the

Republic of India's National Song.

"When Bankim Babu composed *Vande Mataram*, India had gone far away from its golden era. Foreign invaders, their attacks, plundering, exploitative policies of the British, at that time our country was groaning in the clutches of poverty and hunger. Even then, in those dire circumstances, Bankim Babu called for a prosperous India. Because he believed that no matter how difficult the situation, India could revive its golden era. And so, he called out, *Vande Mataram*," the

PM said. "And hence, in that period of slavery, *Vande Mataram* became the proclamation of this resolution, and that proclamation was of India's independence," he added.

Mr. Modi said that *Vande Mataram* was relevant in every era of the country's history.

The Prime Minister released a commemorative stamp and coin on the occasion.

Communal agenda

The BJP also jumped into the debate, with BJP spokesperson C.R. Kesavan alleging that the Congress, "brazenly pandering to its communal agenda under the presidentship of Jawaharlal Nehru, adopted only a truncated *Vande Mataram* as the party's National Song in its 1937 Faizpur Session".

"Netaji Subhas [Chandra] Bose had strongly advocated for the full original version of *Vande Mataram*. On October 20, 1937, Nehru wrote to Netaji Bose claiming that the background of *Vande Mataram* was likely to irritate Muslims," Mr. Kesavan said in a post on X.

Maharashtra sends proposal to relocate leopards to Vantara

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government has proposed to relocate 50 leopards to Vantara, the animal rehabilitation centre in Jamnagar, Gujarat, owned by the Ambani Group. A proposal seeking approval has been submitted to the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) as of November 6, Chief Conservator of Forests Jitendra Ramgaonkar has confirmed.

"The proposal to transfer is made only for those leopards who have been in rescue centres for years in the State. The space will be made for the newly rescued animals," Mr. Ramgaonkar said.

He added that other measures to address human-leopard conflict are being implemented at the district level, and propo-

sals for birth-control measures have been sent to the Centre.

Human-leopard conflict
Incidents of human-leopard conflict have been rising in western Maharashtra.

On November 2, a 13-year-old boy was killed in Pune district's Shirur region, the third such death since October 12. The series of leopard attacks has triggered panic and public anger in the Junnar, Shirur, Ambegaon and Khed taluks of the district, where the leopard population has increased sharply.

"We are in talks with the Central government seeking permissions for sterilisation as the population is on the rise and putting down man-eater leopards as required," Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said.

'Boost financial sector reforms to secure \$30 trillion economy goal'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The World Bank, in its latest Financial Sector Assessment (FSA) report, has stated India achieving its

vision to become a \$30 trillion economy by 2047 would require further impetus to financial sector reforms to boost private capital mobilisation. The FSA report high-

lighted India's financial system had become more resilient, diversified and inclusive since the release of the last Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP) published in 2017.

Indian banks far more mature than a decade ago: Malhotra

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

'Owing to a series of regulatory measures aimed at 'recognition, resolution and recapitalisation' of the banking system, Indian banks today are far more mature than they were a decade ago, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra said.

He said credit and deposits had expanded almost three times. Capital buffers strengthened too – CRAR rose from 13.5% as on March 31, 2015 to 17.5% as on March 31, 2025 with CET-1 increasing from 10.43% to 14.73% during the same period.

"Asset quality also improved. GNPA and NNPA reduced to 2.3% and 0.5% in March 2025 after rising to highs of 11.2% and 5.96% respectively in March 2018. Profitability of banks has enhanced significantly," he said at a SBI event.

"Between FY2017-18 and FY2024-25, Return on Assets increased from -0.24% to 1.37%, and Return on Equity from -2% to 14%. Regulation cannot ignore this performance, these changed realities.

'Banks now stronger'

"This evolution implies prudential rule books too should evolve in a calibrated manner as banks are now stronger and supervision more alert even as alternative risk-bearing pillars have deepened and market-based risk transfer mechanisms have become



Sanjay Malhotra

more effective," he said.

He said regulatory measures such as Asset Quality Review (AQR) initiated in 2015 and Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework had been balanced and appropriate.

Acquisition finance

Commenting on acquisition finance, he said "it is acknowledged as an integral element of an evolved financial system, that helps in better allocation of financial resources.

"Recognising its need, non-bank players such as NBFCs and bond markets are already allowed to provide such funding. Removal of the restriction on banks will benefit the real economy," he emphasised.

"The proposed guardrails like limiting bank funding to 70% of deal value, limits on debt to equity ratio, aggregate exposure limits relative to Tier-1 capital, and eligibility criteria will contain concentration and credit risks, thereby ensuring safety while allowing banks and their stakeholders to reap benefits of additional business," the Governor said.

China launches new aircraft carrier *Fujian* as it seeks to project power

The carrier skips past the steam catapult technology used on most American carriers to employ an electromagnetic launch system found only on the latest U.S. Navy Ford-class series; the new system allows for more precise control over speed

Associated Press
BANGKOK

China has commissioned its latest aircraft carrier after extensive sea trials, state media reported on Friday, adding a ship that experts say will help what is already the world's largest navy expand its power farther beyond its own waters.

The official *Xinhua* news agency said the *Fujian* had been commissioned on Wednesday at a naval base on southern China's Hainan island in a ceremony attended by President Xi Jinping.

The *Fujian* is China's third carrier and the first that it both designed and



Naval strength: China's third aircraft carrier, *Fujian*, at a port in Sanya city in southern China's Hainan Province on Wednesday. AP

built itself. It is perhaps the most visible example so far of Mr. Xi's massive military overhaul and expansion that aims to have a modernised force by 2035 and one that is "world class" by

mid century.

For China's navy, one goal is to dominate the near waters of the South China Sea, East China Sea and Yellow Sea around the so-called First Island

Chain, which runs south through Japan, Taiwan and the Philippines. But deeper into the Pacific, it also wants to be able to contest control of the Second Island Chain, where the U.S. has important military facilities on Guam and elsewhere, said Greg Poling, director of the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

China's first aircraft carrier, the *Liaoning*, was Soviet-made and its second, the *Shandong*, was built in China but based on the Soviet model. Both use older-style ski-jump type systems to help planes take flight.

The *Fujian* skips past the steam catapult technology used on most American carriers to employ an electromagnetic launch system found only on the latest U.S. Navy Ford-class carriers. The system causes less stress to the aircraft and the ship, allows for more precise control over speed and can launch a wider range of aircraft than the steam system.

Numerically it only has three carriers compared to the U.S. Navy's 11, and while China's carriers are all conventionally powered, the U.S.'s are all nuclear powered – they can operate almost indefinitely without being refuelled, increasing their range.