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SIR and transgender voters: the third gender caught in the wall of paperwork

18 November 2026: Lucknow district's revised draft electoral roll (published on 17 November) shows only 108 transgender voters out of 31,39,412 electors. According to the Hindustan Times report, the district's total electorate is about 23% lower than in December 2025. The news is part of the larger picture of falling third-gender registration after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).



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Key facts from the reports

- Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh): the draft roll published on 17 November 2026 lists 16,40,342 male, 14,98,962 female and 108 transgender voters; the final roll is due on 4 January 2027. Claims and objections run from 17 November to 16 December 2026; Forms 6, 7 and 8 are available for additions, deletions and corrections.
- Karnataka: per the Times of India (3 November), after the SIR third-gender voters fell 43%, from 4,995 to 2,841; the state's overall voter count fell about 18%. In some constituencies the drop reached 82%.
- Karnataka final roll: the Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer's statistical release of 27 October 2026 records 4,54,55,689 general electors and 4,55,00,011 electors including service electors. It records 2,841 third-gender electors. The reduction of 99,32,303 from the pre-SIR total of 5,54,32,314 is a net change, not the number of all gross deletion entries during the process. Eligible people omitted from the roll can apply through Form 6.
- Nationwide: per Scroll.in (July 2026), in the SIR's third phase transgender voters in several states are struggling to meet the process requirements.

Why the fall: what the reports say

Community members and activists cited three main reasons in the reports. One, lack of documents: name-change proof, transfer certificates and mark sheets are missing for those estranged from their families. Two, migration: those who moved to cities cannot prove long-term residence. Three, lack of information: many do not know their voting rights or the process. Activists suggested that certification by the District Collector or ZP CEO be accepted as proof of residence.

Permanent exam facts: SIR and the electoral roll

- Legal basis of the electoral roll: the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960; preparing and revising rolls is the job of the Election Commission of India (Article 324).
- Summary revision happens every year; a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) involves house-to-house verification and re-verification.
- Form 6 adds a new name, Form 7 is for deletion/objection, and Form 8 corrects details.
- In 2009 the Election Commission allowed transgender voters to choose "Others" in the gender column; the NALSA judgment of 2014 gave legal recognition to the third gender.
- Right to vote: Article 326 provides for adult suffrage, subject to the constitutional and legal eligibility conditions, from age 18.

Related reading: Form 6 and SIR: Declaration Separated, ECI's Clarification and the Supreme Court's Watch

Introduction: the exam angle

- Syllabus link: polity - Election Commission of India, electoral rolls, inclusive democracy.
- Key: SIR aims to keep rolls clean and accurate; but the burden of verification can fall unevenly on vulnerable groups - that is the exam line of this topic.
- Common confusion: a name deleted from the roll does not end citizenship; the name can be added again (Form 6).

Prelims Practice Questions

Question 1

Which form is used to add a new name to the electoral roll?

(a) Form 4

(b) Form 6

(c) Form 7

(d) Form 10

▼ **Answer and Explanation**

Correct answer: (b)

Form 6 is for new voter registration. Form 7 is for deletion or objection and Form 8 for correction of details.

Question 2

According to the reports, by how much did the number of third-gender voters in Karnataka fall after the SIR?

(a) 12%

(b) 23%

(c) 43%

(d) 60%

▼ **Answer and Explanation**

Correct answer: (c)

Per the Times of India report of 3 November 2026, third-gender voters in Karnataka fell 43%, from 4,995 to 2,841.

Question 3

Which judgment gave transgender persons legal recognition as a "third gender"?

(a) Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala

(b) NALSA v. Union of India

(c) Puttaswamy v. Union of India

(d) Shayara Bano v. Union of India

▼ **Answer and Explanation**

Correct answer: (b)

In NALSA v. Union of India (2014), the Supreme Court recognised transgender persons as a third gender and accepted the right to self-identify one's gender.

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is SIR?

Special Intensive Revision is a deep review of the electoral roll involving house-to-house checking and re-verification. It is conducted by the Election Commission of India.

Does deletion from the roll end citizenship?

No. Deletion from the electoral roll relates only to voter registration; citizenship and other rights are unaffected. A name can be added again with Form 6.

Why did transgender voter numbers fall?

According to the reports, the main reasons are missing name-change and residence documents, estrangement from families, migration and lack of information.

How many transgender voters are listed in Lucknow's draft roll?

Per the Hindustan Times report of 18 November 2026, the Lucknow district draft roll published on 17 November lists 108 transgender voters. Karnataka CEO final table, OpenCity mirror: https://data.opencity.in/dataset/51e6e2e7-8e40-4006-808e-fd2d652b6e74/resource/b4b55958-1b6d-4335-8562-a6b796949f8e/download/pdf-final-ac-wise-27.10.2026.pdf Final roll press corroboration: https://indianexpress.com/article/india/karnataka-sir-deletions-karnataka-voter-roll-shrinks-nearly-1-crore-final-rolls-published-10938930/ Pre-SIR comparison: https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2026/Aug/24/karnataka-sir-draft-electoral-rolls-released-women-outnumber-men

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