

MAINS MASTERY 2026 · GS PAPER II · QUESTION 4 · STUDENT EDITION

The Right to Vote and the Electoral Roll

THE QUESTION, AS SET IN UPSC CSE MAINS 2026

Is the right to vote a fundamental right? Discuss the position of the Election Commission of India while undertaking the revision of electoral rolls. Can it also examine the question of citizenship of voters?

Directive: Discuss | 10 marks | 150 words | Polity: elections, ECI

1 **PYQ Deep Decode**
Demand, hidden demand, structure, form

2 **PYQ Intelligence**
2013 to 2026: elections and the ECI

3 **Additional information**
Status of the vote, ECI power, citizenship

4 **Pitfalls and variations**
Corrections and changed directives

5 **The model answer**
One answer, three parts and a flow

6 **Other ways to write it**
Outlines, and when each works

7 **Quick recall**
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8 **Write it yourself**
A seven-point self-check

Guranchal Ma'am, Founder, UPSC Gurus · upscgurus.in

Is the right to vote a fundamental right? Discuss the position of the Election Commission of India while undertaking the revision of electoral rolls. Can it also examine the question of citizenship of voters?

1 PYQ Deep Decode

Read the question the way the examiner set it: the demand, the hidden demand, the structure that follows from both, and how the answer should be presented, opened and closed.

1.1 The demand

Three linked questions in one. First, **is the right to vote a fundamental right?** This needs a precise legal answer with case law. Second, **discuss the Election Commission's position** when it revises electoral rolls: its source of power, its limits and the safeguards. Third, **can it examine citizenship?** This needs a yes-or-no answer with its conditions. The 2025-26 Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and the Supreme Court's judgment of May 2026 sit behind all three.

Words in the question	What they ask you to do	What goes wrong if you miss them
Is the right to vote a fundamental right?	Answer directly: the right to vote is **not generally recognised as an independent Fundamental Right**. Jyoti Basu (1982) and Kuldip Nayar (2006) call it statutory, while PUCL (2003) and Rajbala (2015) speak of its constitutional foundation. Freedom of voting, as distinct from the entitlement, attracts **Article 19(1)(a)**; **Article 326** guarantees registration to qualified adult citizens.	Calling it a Fundamental Right outright, or merely statutory with nothing more.
Discuss the position of the Election Commission	Set out its power: **Article 324**, Sections 21 to 24 of the **Representation of the People Act, 1950**, and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, especially **Rule 21A** (deletion safeguards).	Describing the SIR as news, without the law.
while undertaking the revision of electoral rolls	Cover summary, intensive and special revision; the SIR; the courts' review.	Ignoring the 2026 judgment.
Can it also examine the question of citizenship?	Give the conditional answer: a **limited enquiry** for eligibility, not a determination of citizenship; doubtful cases to the Central Government.	A flat yes or no.

THE DEMAND IN ONE LINE

State the legal status of the right to vote, explain the Election Commission's power and limits in revising rolls, and give the conditional answer on citizenship, all with the law and the 2026 judgment.

1.2 The hidden demand

Behind the three questions is one tension: **roll integrity against inclusion**. The Commission must keep non-citizens, the dead and duplicates off the rolls, but every eligible citizen must stay on them. Who carries the burden of proof, how much documentation is demanded, and how fast errors are corrected decide whether a revision protects the franchise or erodes it. A strong answer ends with that balance: a right that is **statutory in law but constitutional in importance** deserves procedures that err towards inclusion.

Is the right to vote a fundamental right? Discuss the position of the Election Commission of India while undertaking the revision of electoral rolls. Can it also examine the question of citizenship of voters?

Each point should name the law, show its effect, and give a case. The last column is where the hidden demand begins.

Question	Legal position	The inclusion concern
Status of the vote	Statutory in the main line of cases (Kuldip Nayar, 2006), rooted in Article 326; freedom of voting protected under Article 19(1)(a) (PUCL, 2003).	A statutory right can be narrowed by law and procedure.
Citizenship check	Limited enquiry for eligibility; exclusion is not a declaration of non-citizenship (ADR v. ECI, 2026).	Excluded persons need quick referral and restoration.

WEAK

The right to vote is not a fundamental right but a statutory right, and the Election Commission can check citizenship because only citizens can vote.

STRONG

The vote is statutory in law but constitutionally anchored in Article 326; the Commission may make a limited enquiry into citizenship to decide eligibility, but cannot determine citizenship, and must refer doubtful cases with notice and hearing.

1.3 The structure

The question has **three explicit demands**, and the hidden demand runs through the third. So a useful answer has **three parts**, the last carrying the inclusion concern. The shares are of the body between the introduction and the conclusion; they are a teaching guide, not a UPSC rule.

Introduction | **1. Status of the vote** about one-third | **2. ECI in revision** about one-third | **3. Citizenship** about one-third | **Conclusion**

Parts 1 and 2 **Status and power** about two-thirds

Status	Statutory in the main line (Ponnuswami 1952, Jyoti Basu 1982, Kuldip Nayar 2006); constitutional foundation (PUCL 2003, Rajbala 2015); 19(1)(a) protects freedom of voting.
Power	Article 324; RPA 1950 Section 21(3) special revision; Rule 21A safeguards; two-tier appeals (Section 24).
Review	ADR v. ECI (27 May 2026) upheld the SIR as proportionate.

Part 3 **Citizenship** about one-third

Yes, limited	Section 16 bars non-citizens, so eligibility may be checked.
Not final	No conclusive determination of citizenship; citizenship-based deletions referred to the competent Central authority.
Due process	Notice, hearing and reasoned orders (Lal Babu Hussein, 1995; Rule 21A).

1.4 How to present it

The form follows the question. Three questions call for **three headed parts**; the citizenship answer is a **procedure**, which a short flow shows best.

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Form	Fit here	Reason
Three headed parts, flow in the third	**Best**	Mirrors the question; the procedure shows the limits.
Table: question, law, case	Good	Compact, but thin on the citizenship procedure.
Narrative of the SIR	Weak	News, not law.

1.5 The introduction and the conclusion

The introduction serves the whole question. It names the constitutional source (Article 326), the statute (RPA 1950) and the Commission's role (Article 324).

The conclusion settles the demand. It states the balance: the Commission may verify eligibility, but procedure must not disenfranchise genuine citizens.

2 PYQ Intelligence 2013 to 2026

The question's context in 2026, its place in a line of questions on elections and the Election Commission, and what to prepare next.

2.1 Why the subject was topical in 2026

The Special Intensive Revision and its challenge in the Supreme Court were the defining electoral events of 2025-26. UPSC never states why it sets a question, so treat this as **context, not cause**. Everything in this table predates the examination.

When	What happened	Why it matters for this question
24 June 2025	The Election Commission orders a **Special Intensive Revision** of Bihar's rolls; electors not on the 2003 roll must submit documents.	The revision that raised all three questions.
July to September 2025	The Supreme Court asks the Commission to consider Aadhaar, EPIC and ration cards (10 July); orders publication, with reasons, of about 65 lakh names omitted from the draft roll (14 August); omission from the draft was provisional, not a final deletion; directs Aadhaar to be accepted as a twelfth document, as proof of identity, not citizenship (8 September).	Courts shaping inclusion safeguards.
30 September 2025	Bihar's final roll: about **7.42 crore** electors. The sequence: about 7.89 crore before the SIR; about 65 lakh omitted, leaving about 7.24 crore in the draft roll (1 August); about 21.53 lakh added and 3.66 lakh deleted after claims and objections; a net fall of about 47 lakh.	The scale of change.
27 October 2025	The Commission orders the second phase of the SIR in **12 States and Union Territories**: Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya	A national exercise.

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When	What happened	Why it matters for this question
	Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, with Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and Puducherry.	
27 May 2026	In **Association for Democratic Reforms v. Election Commission of India** (2026 INSC 564), the Court upholds the SIR as proportionate, holds that existing entries carry a rebuttable presumption of validity, allows a limited citizenship enquiry for eligibility, and requires citizenship-based deletions to be referred to the competent Central authority, with time-bound directions for the Bihar cases.	The controlling law at the examination.

2.2 The skill UPSC keeps testing

These questions share one concern: **the powers and limits of the Election Commission and the law of elections**. No earlier GS II question examined electoral-roll revision or the Commission's power to examine citizenship; those are what is new in 2026. Questions are verbatim unless marked.

Year	The question as UPSC set it, or a marked summary	What it asked of you	What changed in 2026
2017 GS II	"Simultaneous election to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies will limit the amount of time and money spent in electioneering but it will reduce the government's accountability to the people." Discuss.	Electoral design.	From the calendar to the roll.
2017 GS II	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?	ECI and electoral reform.	Reform of the roll itself.
2018 GS II	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?	Trust in the ECI.	Trust tested in roll revision.
2019 GS II	On what grounds a people's representative can be disqualified under the Representation of People Act, 1951? Also mention the remedies available to such person against his disqualification.	The RPA, 1951.	Now the RPA, 1950 and the roll.
2020 GS II	"There is a need for simplification of procedure for disqualification of persons found guilty of corrupt practices under the Representation of Peoples Act". Comment.	Electoral integrity.	Integrity of the voter list.
2022 GS II	Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India in the light of the evolution of the Model Code of Conduct.	ECI's powers in practice.	From parties' conduct to the list of voters.

Is the right to vote a fundamental right? Discuss the position of the Election Commission of India while undertaking the revision of electoral rolls. Can it also examine the question of citizenship of voters?

Year	The question as UPSC set it, or a marked summary	What it asked of you	What changed in 2026
2022 GS II	Summary, not verbatim: procedures to decide election disputes under the RPA, 1951; grounds on which a returned candidate's election may be declared void; remedies; case law.	Election petitions.	Appeals and review now for electors.
2024 GS II	Examine the need for electoral reforms as suggested by various committees with particular reference to "one nation - one election" principle.	Electoral reform.	Reform as procedure for inclusion.
2025 GS II	Summary, not verbatim: corrupt practices under the RPA, 1951, and whether a disproportionate increase in legislators' assets amounts to undue influence.	Electoral integrity.	Integrity at the level of the roll.

CARRY THIS METHOD TO ANY "IS IT A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT" QUESTION

1. **Answer the status** in one line.
2. **Cite the line of cases**, earliest to latest.
3. **Give the constitutional anchor.**
4. **Show the protection** it still enjoys.
5. **End with what follows** for procedure.

2.3 What to prepare next

CONSTITUTION AND STATUTE

Article 324	Superintendence, direction and control of electoral rolls and elections.
Article 325	One general roll for every territorial constituency; no one is ineligible for inclusion, or may claim a special roll, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or any of them.
Article 326	Adult suffrage: citizens aged 18 or above, not otherwise disqualified.
RPA 1950	Section 16 (disqualification), 19 (conditions), 21 (revision), 22-23 (correction, inclusion), 24 (appeals).

CASES

N.P. Ponnuswami (1952)	The right to vote is a creature of statute.
Jyoti Basu v. Debi Ghosal (1982)	Neither fundamental nor common law right; a statutory right.
PUCL (2003), PUCL (2013)	Casting a vote is expression under Article 19(1)(a); NOTA.
Lal Babu Hussein (1995)	Protects enrolled electors against arbitrary deletion: fair enquiry and a chance to respond. ADR v. ECI (2026) distinguished it from a comprehensive SIR: the presumption is rebuttable, not conclusive.

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3 Additional information

Everything needed to answer this question well. Tier 1 holds what the demand needs; Tier 2 places it within the wider debate on franchise and roll integrity.

TIER 1 · ESSENTIAL: THE STATUS OF THE VOTE, THE COMMISSION'S POWER AND THE CITIZENSHIP QUESTION

Three layers of the right to vote

SOURCE
Article 326
Adult suffrage: every citizen aged 18 or above, not disqualified, is entitled to be registered.

FORM
Statutory right
Registration under the RPA 1950; the entitlement to vote under Section 62 of the RPA 1951 (Ponnuswami; Jyoti Basu; Kuldip Nayar).

PROTECTION
Expression
Freedom of voting is protected under Article 19(1)(a) (PUCL 2003; NOTA 2013).

DEBATE
Fundamental?
Justice Rastogi's separate concurrence (Anoop Baranwal, 2023) declared it fundamental; this was not the Bench's common holding.

Subject	What it is	Why it matters for the answer
IS THE VOTE A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT?		
Settled view	A statutory right: Ponnuswami (1952); Jyoti Basu (1982): "neither a fundamental right nor a common law right"; Kuldip Nayar (2006, Constitution Bench, in the Rajya Sabha context). In Anoop Baranwal (2023), Justice K.M. Joseph's principal opinion reviewed the conflicting authorities, while Justice Ajay Rastogi's separate concurrence declared the right to vote in direct elections a Fundamental Right; that conclusion was not the common holding of the five-judge Bench.	The direct answer.
Constitutional anchor	Article 326 makes adult suffrage the basis of elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies: citizens aged at least 18 on the qualifying date are entitled to registration, unless disqualified by the Constitution or a valid law. Section 19 of the RPA 1950 adds age and ordinary residence; Section 16 lists disqualifications.	Why "merely statutory" understates it.
Protected expression	PUCL (2003) and PUCL (2013, NOTA): freedom of voting is a form of expression under Article 19(1)(a). Rajbala v. State of Haryana (10 December 2015), relying on PUCL (2003), described the right to vote as a constitutional right, in the context of qualifications for panchayat elections.	The nuance examiners reward.
THE COMMISSION'S POWER IN REVISING ROLLS		
Source	Article 324: superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls.	Constitutional base.
Statute	RPA 1950: Section 21(3) lets the Commission order a special revision, for reasons recorded, "in such manner as it thinks fit", within constitutional and statutory limits; Section 22 governs correction, transposition and deletion; Section 23 inclusion;	Statutory base and safeguards.

Is the right to vote a fundamental right? Discuss the position of the Election Commission of India while undertaking the revision of electoral rolls. Can it also examine the question of citizenship of voters?

Subject	What it is	Why it matters for the answer
	Section 24 provides appeals against ERO orders under Sections 22 and 23, with Rule 27 prescribing the procedure (ordinarily 15 days for the first appeal and 30 days for the further appeal, subject to condonation of delay). Registration of Electors Rules, 1960: Rule 21A sets deletion safeguards, and Rule 23 provides an appeal against decisions under Rules 20, 21 and 21A. The Bihar SIR Guidelines set the route ERO, District Magistrate, Chief Electoral Officer.	
Judicial view (2026)	ADR v. ECI (27 May 2026): the SIR is traceable to Section 21(3) read with Article 324, consistent with the Act and Rules, and proportionate. Existing entries carry a rebuttable presumption of validity, which does not bar systematic verification but informs due-process safeguards. On the evidence, the Court found no systemic disenfranchisement to invalidate the exercise; individual wrongful exclusions remain open to appeal and review.	The current law.
CAN IT EXAMINE CITIZENSHIP?		
Yes, for eligibility	Section 16 disqualifies non-citizens from registration, so the Commission may conduct a limited enquiry into citizenship for the roll.	The "yes".
But not a determination	An adverse finding affects only electoral eligibility and is not a declaration of non-citizenship. Citizenship-based deletions must be referred to the competent Central Government authority under the Citizenship Act, 1955. Paragraph 186(g) sets the general duty of referral. Paragraph 186(h) directed the Commission to refer, within four weeks, cases of persons deleted from the 2003 electoral roll as non-citizens; the competent authority must decide under the Citizenship Act, 1955, after notice and hearing, preferably before the next Parliamentary, Assembly or local body election, whichever is earlier. Persons found to be citizens must be restored. The four weeks is not a general statutory time limit.	The "but".
Due process	Lal Babu Hussein (1995) protects enrolled electors against arbitrary deletion through fair enquiry. Rule 21A requires publication of proposed deletions, consideration of objections and reasonable efforts to give individual show-cause opportunities on specified grounds; the Bihar SIR Guidelines, upheld in ADR v. ECI (2026), add reasoned (speaking) orders in doubtful-eligibility cases. Aadhaar is accepted for identity, not citizenship. Death, shifted residence, duplication and a genuine citizenship dispute are different grounds and need different proof.	The safeguards.

Is the right to vote a fundamental right? Discuss the position of the Election Commission of India while undertaking the revision of electoral rolls. Can it also examine the question of citizenship of voters?

Integrity and inclusion are both constitutional. Article 326 entitles citizens to be registered; Section 16 excludes non-citizens. A roll that keeps ineligible entries fails integrity; a revision that wrongly excludes eligible citizens fails inclusion. A lawful revision must protect both.

Who decides citizenship. The Commission decides eligibility for the roll. Formal citizenship questions go to the competent authority under the Citizenship Act, 1955. Separately, Foreigners Tribunals give opinions on foreigner status under the Immigration and Foreigners Order, 2025, issued under the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025. The procedures are distinct.

TIER 2 · EXTENDED UNDERSTANDING: THE WHOLE TOPIC AROUND IT

The case for intensive revision

1. **Accuracy:** dead, shifted and duplicate entries.
2. **Eligibility:** only citizens may vote (Section 16).
3. **Last intensive revision** in Bihar was in 2003.
4. **Trust:** clean rolls support confidence in results.

The inclusion concerns

1. **Burden:** existing voters asked to re-establish their place.
2. **Documents:** the poor and migrants hold fewer.
3. **Timelines:** short windows before elections.
4. **Referral backlog:** a risk of a class without votes.
5. **Data:** deletions need reasons and public lists.

Two debates worth knowing

Should the vote be a Fundamental Right?

Supporters say democracy's foundation deserves Part III protection. Others say the Constitution deliberately left qualifications to law. The balanced reading: **Article 326 already guarantees the entitlement**; what matters most is procedure that protects it.

Is a citizenship check by the Commission dangerous?

Critics compare it to the "D-voter" experience in Assam. The Court imposed limits: a preliminary eligibility enquiry, no conclusive determination, referral of citizenship-based deletions, and restoration where citizenship is established; other wrongful deletions go through appeals or judicial review. The balanced reading: **a limited check is lawful**, but speed of referral and restoration decides whether it is fair.

4 Pitfalls and variations

The mistakes that cost marks here, the claims never to make, and how the answer changes when the question changes.

4.1 Six pitfalls, each with its correction

Fundamental right outright

~~Voting is a Fundamental Right under Article 21.~~

It is statutory, anchored in Article 326, with voting protected under 19(1)(a).

Statutory, full stop

~~It is only a statutory right and can be taken away.~~

Article 326 entitles every qualified citizen to be registered.

Is the right to vote a fundamental right? Discuss the position of the Election Commission of India while undertaking the revision of electoral rolls. Can it also examine the question of citizenship of voters?

No legal base for ECI

~~ECI has full power over elections.~~

Article 324 with RPA 1950, Section 21(3).

Flat yes on citizenship

~~ECI can decide who is a citizen.~~

Limited enquiry for eligibility; no determination; referral.

Ignoring 2026

~~The matter is pending before the court.~~

ADR v. ECI (27 May 2026) upheld the SIR with limits.

No inclusion concern

~~Thus ECI's powers are wide.~~

Procedure must not disenfranchise genuine citizens.

4.2 Never write these

- "Article 326 makes voting a Fundamental Right."
  It is in Part XV, not Part III.
- "Aadhaar is proof of citizenship."
  The Court accepted it for identity only.
- "A person excluded from the roll is declared a foreigner."
  The 2026 judgment says otherwise.
- "The voting age was always 18."
  The Constitution (Sixty-first Amendment) Act, 1988, in force from 28 March 1989, lowered it from 21.
- "Names can be deleted without notice."
  Lal Babu Hussein (1995) requires procedural fairness; Rule 21A mandates published notice and consideration of objections, with reasonable efforts to give individual show-cause opportunities where applicable.
- "All 65 lakh names omitted from Bihar's draft roll were deleted."
  Draft omission was provisional; the net fall was about 47 lakh.

4.3 If the question changes

If it asks	The structure becomes	What must change
Critically examine the SIR	Aims; procedure; concerns; judgment; reforms	The exercise itself.
Independence of the ECI	Appointment, tenure, powers, controversies	Institution, not roll.
Electoral roll reforms	Continuous updating, Aadhaar linkage debate, migrant voters	Forward-looking.
The same question for **15 marks**	Add the debates and the Assam comparison	Room for depth.

Is the right to vote a fundamental right? Discuss the position of the Election Commission of India while undertaking the revision of electoral rolls. Can it also examine the question of citizenship of voters?

5 The model answer

One model answer, written to the 150-word limit, in the form this question calls for: three headed parts, with the citizenship procedure as a flow. The introduction covers the whole question; the conclusion settles its demand.

Model answer **Three parts and a flow** **152 words**

Article 326 entitles eligible adult citizens to registration; Article 324 empowers the Election Commission (ECI) to superintend electoral rolls, within statutory limits.

1. Is voting a fundamental right?

- **Largely statutory:** Jyoti Basu (1982) and Kuldip Nayar (2006) call it statutory, though Rajbala (2015) calls it constitutional.
- **Protected:** freedom of voting is expression under Article 19(1)(a) (PUCL, 2003); Justice Rastogi (2023) separately held it fundamental.

2. Commission's position in revision

- **Power:** Section 21(3), RPA 1950 permits special revision; ADR v. ECI (May 2026) upheld Bihar's SIR as proportionate.
- **Limits:** enrolled electors enjoy a rebuttable presumption; Rule 21A mandates publication; guidelines require reasons; Section 24 provides appeals.

3. Citizenship

Doubt → **Notice, hearing** → **Reasoned order** → **Central referral**

Section 16 excludes non-citizens, so ECI may enquire into eligibility but never conclusively determine citizenship; citizenship-based exclusions require Central referral.

Clean rolls matter, but accessible documents, effective appeals and prompt restoration must protect genuine citizens, especially vulnerable voters, from arbitrary disenfranchisement.

DEMAND
Status of the vote, ECI's power and limits, and citizenship, each answered

HIDDEN DEMAND
Roll integrity must not cost genuine citizens their vote

STRUCTURE
About one-third each

BALANCE
Introduction 22 words, conclusion 21 words; 152 words in all

Why it works: the introduction names the constitutional source, the statute and the Commission's role; Part 1 answers the status with the line of cases and the 19(1)(a) nuance; Part 2 gives the power, the rebuttable presumption, the Rule 21A safeguards, appeals and the 2026 judgment; Part 3 gives the conditional answer on citizenship as a procedure; the conclusion states the balance between integrity and inclusion.

6 Other ways to write it

The model answer above remains the answer. These outlines show how a different, equally valid answer could be built, and when each choice works.

Approach	How it is built	When it works
Table of three questions	Rows: status, power, citizenship; columns: law, case, limit.	When space is tight.

Is the right to vote a fundamental right? Discuss the position of the Election Commission of India while undertaking the revision of electoral rolls. Can it also examine the question of citizenship of voters?

Approach	How it is built	When it works
Open with the SIR	Introduction: Bihar 2025 and the 2026 judgment; then the law.	When current affairs is your strength.
Layers of the right	Source, form, protection, debate; then ECI and citizenship.	When the status question carries most weight.
For 15 marks	Add inclusion concerns and both debates.	When there is room.

7 Quick recall and Prelims crossover

Facts for rapid revision and Prelims.

1	**Article 324**: ECI; rolls and elections.	9	**Kuldip Nayar**: **2006**; statutory.
2	**Article 325**: one general roll.	10	**Lal Babu Hussein**: **1995**; notice before deletion.
3	**Article 326**: adult suffrage.	11	**Anoop Baranwal**: **2023**; Rastogi J on the vote.
4	**61st Amendment** Act, 1988 (in force 28 March 1989): voting age 21 to 18.	12	Bihar SIR ordered: **24 June 2025**.
5	**RPA 1950** Section 16: non-citizens disqualified.	13	Aadhaar as 12th document: **8 September 2025**.
6	**Section 21(3)**: special revision.	14	Bihar final roll: about **7.42 crore** (30 September 2025).
7	**Ponnuswami**: **1952**; **Jyoti Basu**: **1982**.	15	SIR phase 2: **12** States and UTs (27 October 2025).
8	**PUCL**: **2003**; NOTA: **2013**.	16	**ADR v. ECI**: **27 May 2026**; 2026 INSC 564.

THE ONE SENTENCE TO CARRY OUT OF THIS DOCUMENT

The law may call the vote statutory, but a roll that loses a genuine citizen has taken away the one right on which all the others depend.

Is the right to vote a fundamental right? Discuss the position of the Election Commission of India while undertaking the revision of electoral rolls. Can it also examine the question of citizenship of voters?

8 Write it yourself

Write the answer in 150 words without looking back, then check it against each line below.

	Check	Yes / No
1	Is the status answered **directly**, with cases?	
2	Is **Article 326** named as the source?	
3	Is the Commission's power traced to **Article 324 and Section 21**?	
4	Is the **2026 judgment** used?	
5	Is the citizenship answer **conditional**, with referral?	
6	Does the conclusion give a **view**, at about the length of the introduction?	
7	Is it **150 words or a little over**, with no claim from section 4.2?	

Sources

- Constitution of India, Articles 324, 325, 326; Constitution (Sixty-first Amendment) Act, 1988; Representation of the People Acts, 1950 and 1951; Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 (Rules 21A, 27); Citizenship Act, 1955; Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, and Order, 2025.
- Supreme Court: N.P. Ponnuswami (1952); Jyoti Basu v. Debi Ghosal (1982); Lal Babu Hussein v. Electoral Registration Officer (1995); PUCL v. Union of India (2003, 2013); Kuldip Nayar v. Union of India (2006); Rajbala v. State of Haryana (2015); Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India (2023); Association for Democratic Reforms v. Election Commission of India (2026 INSC 564).
- Election Commission of India: SIR orders (24 June 2025; 27 October 2025); Bihar final roll (30 September 2025).
- UPSC Civil Services (Main): GS Paper II 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2024, 2025 and 2026. Official question papers.

Is the right to vote a fundamental right? Discuss the position of the Election Commission of India while undertaking the revision of electoral rolls. Can it also examine the question of citizenship of voters?

YOUR NEXT STEP

Now write GS Paper II 2026 again.

You now know what this question asked, what it expected without saying so, and how its answer is built. Write the whole paper under the clock, have it evaluated, and read the feedback against this document.



1 **Write the full paper in three hours**

2 **Self-check this answer with section 8**

3 **Have the paper evaluated**

4 **Read the feedback against this document**

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