

Phase-3 of SIR programme begins in Maha from June 30, final list on Oct 7

Nisha Nambiar & Bharti Jain | TNN

Pune/New Delhi: Election Commission on Thursday announced Phase-3 of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls to be conducted in Maharashtra and 15 other states and three Union territories (UTs), with door-to-door verification by booth-level officers scheduled in the state between June 30 and July 29. Final electoral rolls for Maharashtra will be published on Oct 7.

In all, SIR-3 will verify eligibility of 36.7 crore electors across Odisha, Mizoram, Sikkim, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Telangana, Punjab, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Nagaland and Tripura. It will also include UTs of Delhi, Chandigarh and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

The schedule has been aligned with the ongoing census house-listing exercise as both processes rely on the same field machinery, the ECI said on Thursday. Maharashtra has 9.86 crore electors as of May 12, 2026, the largest electorate to be covered in Phase 3.

The state's Chief Electoral Officer's staff said preparatory work for the pre-SIR exercise was underway. "Around 70% mapping has been completed. Work will continue this month as well. However, since staff are also required for census duties, SIR's timeline has been adjusted accordingly," they said.

Qualifying date for the revision has been fixed as Oct 1, 2026 in Maharashtra, making citizens who attain 18 years of age on or before eligible for inclusion in the voters' list. For some of the other states, the qualifying date is July 1.

SIR Phase-2 had seen net deletions of 10.2% electors across 12 states/UTs, bringing down their combined electorate to 45.8 crore from nearly 51 crore. Andaman and Nicobar saw highest percentage of net purification of electors at 16.6%, followed by UP (13.2%), Gujarat (13.1%), Chhattisgarh (11.3%), West Bengal (10.9%), Tamil Nadu (10.6%), Goa (10.2%), Puducherry (7%), Madhya Pradesh (5.7%), Rajasthan (5.4%), Kerala (2.5%) and Lakshadweep (0.3%).

Officials added that the SIR-3 revision process would not clash with census operations. "The work will not conflict with the house-listing exercise scheduled from May 16 to June 14. Mapping work by the election officials will continue during this period as well," they added.

Census officials had earlier told TOI that they had requested the state govt to request the ECI to schedule the activity after the house-listing phase of the census. "We would require staff and hence the request," the official said. Election officials said the house-listing activity will end on June 14 following which SIR work will start.

As per the schedule, preparation, training and printing work in Maharashtra will be carried out from June 20 to June 29. The draft electoral roll will be published on Aug 5, followed by a claims and objections period till Sept 4. Disposal of claims and objections will continue till Oct 3.

WHAT YOU MUST DO TO STAY ON ELECTORAL ROLL

MAHARASHTRA'S VOTER LIST REVISION DRIVE EXPLAINED

WHAT SIR IS

Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is a large-scale voter list verification exercise conducted by the Election Commission of India. Unlike routine annual updates, SIR involves:

- House-to-house verification
- Correction of voter records
- Removal of duplicate or invalid entries
- Addition of eligible voters

WHY DO IT

EC says rapid migration, urbanisation and duplicate entries over the last 20 years made fresh verification necessary

KEY DATES

Qualifying date of SIR	Preparation phase
Oct 1, 2026*	Jun 20
Door-to-door voter verification	Draft electoral roll publication
Jun 30 to Jul 29	Aug 5
Claims & objections window	Disposal of claims & objections (last date)
Aug 5 to Sept 4	Oct 3
Final electoral roll publication	
Oct 7	

*Citizens who turn 18 on or before this date are eligible to register as new voters

MAJOR POLL ROLL REVISIONS

- EC is using the 2002 electoral rolls as a reference point for voter verification and lineage mapping during the upcoming SIR exercise
- Maharashtra has undergone multiple summary electoral roll revisions since 2002

17 LAKH names were deleted in 2019, during a big exercise to remove duplicate entries or names of the deceased

36 LAKH names were added overall in 2024 between Lok Sabha and assembly polls



WHO WILL CARRY OUT THE DRIVE?

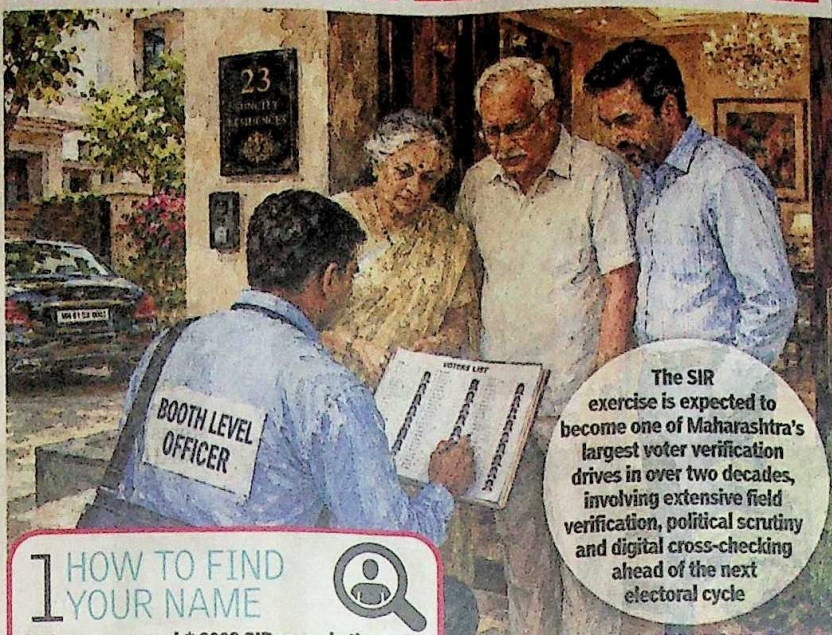


97,924 Booth level officers (BLOs) Appointed by ECI via district election officers

96,949 Booth Level Agents (BLAs) Appointed by recognized political parties

9.87 crore Approximate number of electors to be covered

The Constitution also allows the EC to requisition govt employees for poll roll work



The SIR exercise is expected to become one of Maharashtra's largest voter verification drives in over two decades, involving extensive field verification, political scrutiny and digital cross-checking ahead of the next electoral cycle

1 HOW TO FIND YOUR NAME

Voters can search* 2002 SIR records through: ECI voter portal voters.eci.gov.in

CEO Maharashtra website ceoelection.maharashtra.gov.in

IMPORTANT:

- Search district-wise and polling booth-wise
- Several constituencies changed after delimitation
- BLOs will assist voters in locating records

*Look for your name in both Marathi and English. Also look at the PDFs uploaded district- and polling station-wise

2 IF YOUR NAME EXISTS IN 2002 SIR*

Process becomes easier. If your name or your father's/grandfather's name matches records:

- BLOs can verify lineage through the BLO app
- No extra supporting documents usually needed
- You only submit the partly pre-filled enumeration form

*That is 2002 for Maharashtra. Year may differ for other states

3 IF YOUR NAME DOES NOT EXIST

Additional verification needed. You must:

- Fill the enumeration form
- Submit supporting documents
- Attend hearings if objections arise

In addition, you can seek help from your BLO

APPEAL PROCESS

First: District election officer (DEO)
Second: Chief electoral officer (CEO)

DOCUMENTS ACCEPTED

Any of these* may be used:

Birth certificate • Passport • Aadhaar (ID proof only) • Matriculation certificate • Pension order • Permanent residence certificate • OBC/SC/ST certificate • Forest rights certificate • Land/house allotment papers • Govt/PSU/bank/post office/LIC IDs issued before July 1, 1987 • NRC records (where applicable) • Family register issued by local authorities

*Look out for EC's updates/announcements

WHAT IF YOU'RE NOT HOME

The EC says:

- BLOs will attempt visits 3-4 times
- All voters will receive partly filled forms
- Online submission will also be allowed
- A proposed app may help schedule/respond to BLO visits

WORKING OUTSIDE MAHARASHTRA OR INDIA?

Details are still awaited, but EC has confirmed: Enumeration forms can be submitted online

ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Political parties appoint booth level agents (BLAs), who can:

- Collect electoral rolls from BLOs
- Report dead or shifted voters
- File objections regarding voter inclusion/exclusion
- Accompany BLOs during doorstep verification

70% pre-SIR mapping in 2 months, Mumbai Suburban is lowest at 47%

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Mumbai: Even as the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is set to begin in Maharashtra, the state has achieved only 70% progress in the last two months on mapping voters from the 2002 voter list in the state. This was a crucial pre-SIR activity which will cut down processing time in the SIR programme.

Urban areas remain the main laggards with Mumbai Suburban district achieving

the lowest mapping at 46.9% followed by Pune with 47.4%. Thane is not much better (51.3%) and nor is Mumbai City (57%).

Officials say the sheer population in urban constituencies and the internal mobility makes mapping more difficult. "There is a larger floating population in urban areas as well as internal mobility which means polling booths tend to change which makes mapping more difficult. Also, there is less knowledge among neighbours about where the voter has

shifted," said chief electoral officer (Maharashtra) S Chockalingam. Indeed, he has proposed that in urban centres, the municipality should be involved in helping with the mapping process to improve accountability. He has suggested that an additional municipal commissioner be designated the district election officer.

Another factor impacting mapping work is shortage of Booth Level Officers for mapping work. The shortage is particularly glaring in cities including Mumbai. On the

other hand, semi-urban and rural areas are doing much better on pre-SIR mapping. This is because of lower mobility which results in polling booths used in 2002 and the latest voter list being similar.

Highest mapping is seen in Hingoli (90.1%), Gadchiroli (90.4%), Sindhudurg (89.3%), Ratnagiri (87.8%), and Buldh-Gondia (86.3%) and Buldh-Gondia (86.2%). By contrast, Nagpur is at 62.6%, Palghar 63.9% and Nashik (68.9%). Of the states, 9.8 crore voters, around 6.9 crore have been mapped so far.