



THE SOLACE SUMMIT

WORDS OVER SWORDS



Solace Summit

AIPPM BACKGROUND GUIDE

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greetings Members!

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you to this simulation of AIPPM. We look forward to an enriching and rewarding experience. This study guide is by no means the end of research, we would very much appreciate it if the leaders are able to find new realms in the agenda and bring it forth in the committee. Such research combined with good argumentation and a solid representation of facts is what makes much as possible, as fluency, diction or oratory skills have very little importance as opposed to the content you deliver. So just research and speak and you are bound to make a lot of sense. We are certain that we will be learning from you immensely and we also hope that you all will have an equally enriching experience. In case of any queries feel free to contact us. We will try our best to answer the questions to the best of our abilities. We look forward to an exciting and interesting committee, which should certainly be helped by the all-pervasive nature of the issue. Hopefully we, as members of the Executive Board, do also have a chance to gain from being a part of this committee. Please do not hesitate to contact us regarding any doubts that you may have.

All the Best!

Executive Board



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Valid Sources

1. Government Reports (Each ministry publishes its own reports including External Affairs Ministry)
2. PTI , PIB
3. Government Websites
4. Government run News channels i.e. RSTV, LSTV, DD News
5. Standing Committee Reports/ Commission Reports
6. RTI Proofs
7. Parliamentary Standing Committee reports
8. Questions and Answers of the parliament



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Introduction

Phase 1: Formative Era (1950s - 1960s)

- Historical Context: Creating the mechanics for the "1st Republic" after independence.
- Primary Focus: Creating a foundation for the implementation of universal suffrage through appropriate governmental infrastructure.

Key Reforms:

- 1950 and 1951: Establishment of the Representation of the People Acts (a legal foundation for voter lists and rules about how to conduct a fair election).
- Universal Adult Franchise: End of colonial era "restricted voting" (based on property or education).
- Structure of Constituencies: Transition from using multi-member to single-member electoral districts as the means for ensuring direct representation through fewer levels of government.

Phase 2: Turbulence Era & 1st Generation Reform (1970s – 1980s)

- Historical Context: Development of "muscle power," booth capturing, and political instability throughout the country.
- Primary Focus: Protecting the physical security of the ballot and the election process.

Key Reforms:

- Anti-Defection Law (1985): Passage of 52nd Amendment to eliminate "Aaya Ram Gaya Ram" (the tendency of politicians to frequently change political parties).
- Lowering of Voting Age (1988): Allowing those at least 18 years old to vote (the first time the youth class has been recognized as an important part of societal democracy).
- EVMs (1980s): Initial usage of Electronic Voting Machines to eliminate



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tampering of ballots.

Phase 3: Institutional Assertiveness Era (1990s - early 2000s)

- Historical Context: The “T.N. Seshan” era of the Election Commission being assertive of its constitutional duty Focus Area: Power Disciplining, Enforcement and Transparency for Candidates

Key Reforms:

- Model Code of Conduct (MCC): Strong enforcement of the MCC by all Election Commissions (ECs) to ensure the ruling party does not misuse State Resources.
- Voter ID Cards (EPIC): Introduction of Photo ID cards will prevent impersonation and "ghost" voting.
- Candidate Disclose: Candidates must assert legally through Affidavit their previous criminal history, assets, and liabilities.
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Period 4: The Era of Transparency and Technology (2010-2020)

Context: Middle-class citizens were outraged at the perception of widespread corruption in the political system, resulting in an emergence of digital media critique.

Focus Area: auditable elections and "Right to Reject".

Key Reforms:

NOTA (2013): In 2013, the Supreme Court of India ruled that voters had the right to express their absence of support for any candidate on a ballot by voting for the "none of the above" option (NOTA).

VVPAT Universalisation (2019): Before 2019, there was no equivalent to the paper parallel audit trail for electronic voting machines, and thus, the VVPAT parallel audit trail was created to develop trust in technology through a physical audit trail and address the technical shortcomings of electronic voting machines.

Immediate Disqualification of MPs / MLAs: After the Lily Thomas case, any



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member of parliament or state assembly (MP/MLA) who was convicted of any crime and was sentenced to two or more years in prison was immediately disqualified from running for re-election.

Period 5: The Digital Era and Structural Change (2021 - Present - 2026)

Context: Internet age challenges, artificial intelligence (AI), and logistical fatigue will require new electoral process structures.

Focus Area: Information integrity and consistency; remote voting and synchronized governance.

Key Reforms:

Aadhaar to Voter Linkage: When implemented, this reform is intended to eliminate duplication from the electoral rolls and to remove "fake voters."

Electoral Bonds Reform (2024): Enforcement of this reform was rejected by the Judiciary, resulting in the restoration of financial transparency within the electoral system.

Electoral structural reforms are fundamental transformations of the governmental structure and the legal ties binding the voter, the political parties, and the state together. Administrative changes (e.g., relocating the polling booths) modify the rules of the game and are therefore different from structural reforms.

Structural Reforms

The structural reform of the electoral process can be divided into four different yet interrelated dimensions:

1) Executive Structure: "Referees" must be Independent.

The election management body known as the Election Commission of India (ECI) must remain insulated from executive overreach.

- The Appointment Process (2024 Reform). The major structural reform in the new act is that the leadership of the ECI will now be appointed by a



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committee composed of the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition.

- **The Protection of Their Service:** One of the major demands for structural reform is that the two Election Commissioners should have the same constitutional protections from removal as the CEC and can only be impeached (much like a Supreme Court Justice).
- **An Independent Secretariat:** Proposals now exist for the establishment of an independent budget and staff for the ECI (similar to budgets and staff created for the Parliament and Judiciary) so that they will no longer rely on the Law Ministry for their funding.

2. Structure of the Legislative System: "A Nation, A Vote" (AVN) is the most contentious structural change of 2025-2026. It is intended to align the cycle of elections for the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies with one another.

Goal: To eliminate the "continual electoral phase" that results in the regular halting of development work due to the Model Code of Conduct.

Structural Obstacle: A change to Articles 83, 85, 172, and 174 of the Constitution would be required for implementation. It raises a fundamental issue concerning the federal structure because, until the next national election cycle, a mid-term failure of a State Government will require a "pro-rata" assembly term, or President's Rule.

3. Financial Structure for Political Funding and Accountability: The Supreme Court struck down Electoral Bonds in 2024. As a result, the structural emphasis has shifted, with the objective of creating a "Transparent Funding Ecosystem." The Indrajit Gupta Committee acknowledged that the Structural Proposal for State Funding of Elections would be a method of providing the government with "poll funds" for recognized parties and moving them away from dependence on private, walking corporation-based, "quid pro quo" donations.

The 255th Law Commission Recommendation contains structural provisions for "cap limits" for corporate donations and the mandatory auditing of party finances by an auditor panel that has been approved by the (CAG).



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The Mapping of Structure - Delimitation and Reservations

This has to do with how "We, the people" are mapped onto the number of available seats (or spaces) in the Legislative Assembly.

Delimitation After 2026: A critical structural issue is that as a result of the fixity of the Parliamentary seats as based on the 1971 Census, the future practice of delimiting the number of seats will be required to determine the extent of population and the corresponding seat(s) allocated. For example, the States (South India) which had the most successful experience in controlling their growth of population will end up losing parliamentary seats, while the States (North India) which had a high growth of population will see growth in the number of Parliamentary seats leading to a disproportionate representation of the States in overall parliamentary representation.

Women's Reservation (128th Amendment): Will see a monumental shift of at least 33% of the available seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies reserved for women resulting in a significantly altered demographic make-up of all legislative assembly bodies.

The Judicial/Adjudicative Structure of Elections - Resolving Disputes

Presently, petitions for election disputes (or election petitions) are being heard in the High Courts and can take anywhere from months and even years to resolve (because of their long delays in hearing the matter and because an MP/MLA may continue to be MP/MLA until the court hears the matter).

Proposed Reform: Specialized Election Tribunals would be created to hear these matters and will limit their decision deadlines to 6 months in order to ensure that a person's representation as a result of an election conducted by illegal means will not allow for an entire term (as an illegitimately elected representative).

Delimitation

How We Map Our Citizens to Seats (i.e. How Do We Map "We, The People" to Where They Can Sit?)



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Delimitation Beyond 2026: One of the main areas of concern has to do with the fact that a delimitation exercise must occur to determine how many parliamentary seats there are, but due to Section 2 of the Constitution, parliament will not be able to adjust parliamentary seat counts based on Population and Representative Proportionality (Vertical). For example: "States in South India have a much better record of population control, so if we use the 1971 Census to delimit Parliamentary Seats, South Indian states will lose seats while North Indian states that are growing too fast will gain seats directly impacting the RPP and vertical distribution of Representatives."

Women's Reservation (128th Amendment): This would mean that a minimum of 33% of all seats (Lok Sabha and State Assemblies) will be reserved for women, fundamentally changing the demographics of every Legislative Assembly.

Judicial/Adjudicative Structures for Election Dispute Resolution: Currently, High Courts are considering both General and Special Election Petitions with respect to disputes arising from Election Administration (i.e., alleging that an Election Official committed fraud in connection with a specific election).

Status and Legal Framework (as of March 2026)

Constitutional Requirements: Articles 82 and 170 of the Indian Constitution require the readjustment of electoral boundaries after every census.

2026 Deadline: The **84th Amendment of 2001** mandated that there would be no allocation of seats among the States prior to conducting the first census after 2026.

Census Requirement: Delimitation cannot commence until the new census data has been published. Based on information reported regarding the delays in the 2021 Census, this census is expected to be conducted relatively soon, likely referred to as the 2027 Census; after which time, delimitation will proceed.

Judicial Review of Delimitation Orders: The Supreme Court has provided additional guidance regarding judicial review of delimitation orders. This ruling clarified that **Article 329** limits judicial review of delimitation orders to the extent



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that the judiciary will not examine the underlying merits of delimitation; however, the judiciary has jurisdiction to review delimitation orders when such orders are determined to be mala fide or arbitrary.

"One Person, One Vote, One Value" is intended to address the discrepancies in representation of the population, as some MPs will represent more than 3 million voters and others will represent less than 50,000.

"Women's Reservation" is linked to the next delimitation exercise under the 2023 Nari Shakti Vandan Act which established a legally binding quota of 33% representation for women.

Reallocation of SC/ST seats will be completed after the updated demographic proportions have been completed and used to determine where SC/ST seats will be allocated.

The phrase "one person, one vote, one value" was created to help reduce inconsistency in representation based on overall population -- for example, some members of parliament represent over 3 million voters compared to another member who represent less then 50,000 votes.

The **"women's reservation"** is associated with the upcoming delimitation process included in the 2023 Nari Shakti Vandan Act, which provides for a legally binding **quota of 33%** of all seats to be held by women, thereby creating guaranteed opportunities for women to serve in government.

Once the above process has been complete and accurate demographic proportions have been established, Seats for **SC/ST** will be redistributed accordingly.

Special Intensive Revision

1. The legal authority and constitutional authority of the ECI to Supervise ,Guide and Manage all aspectsoftheVotingProcess includes :

Article 324- grants the ECI Absolute / plenary authority to Supervise, Manage and



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Explore all aspects of the Preparation of the Voter's List

Section 21(3) of the RPA 1950, gives the ECI Absolute Authority to Order a Separate Revision of the Voter's List at Any Time, for Reasons Outlined in Writing, i.e., for any reason outlined in Writing.

Qualifications and Disqualification definitions (RPA, Section 16 and Section 19) give specific details About Who Qualifies and Who Disqualifies to Vote, (Citizen, 18 years or older, " Ordinarily Resident") .

2. On the Social and Analytical aspects:

Inclusion vs Exclusion: (The SIR aims to Include Marginalized People and First Time Voters; Critics Say that it may also remove Migrants and the Poor From Voting Because They Have Very Strict Requirements on Documentation).

Citizenship Debate: From An Analytical Perspective, the 2025/2026 SIR is Very Controversial, with Some Parties Claiming That It is In Fact A "Stealth NRC," because of The Basis of Proof Required to Prove Birth and Parentage for Those Registered After 2003.

Demographic Adjustment: The Need for This Process Comes From Rapid Urbanization and Mass Migration (which is estimated to have an Additional ~ 15 Crore Voters who are not recorded Because the Available Data from Annual "Summary Revisions" is Not Adequate to Cover So Many New Voters).

3. Historical and periodic analysis of SIR Revisions:

Frequency: Major/Revisions are " Long-Term Changes," and are Not Revised or "Go Through An Revisions Process" Yearly or When It Is Time To Vote; They Are Typically Completed Prior to Major Elections or When A Very Or No Revisions Have Occurred for A Long Time. The Major Historical/s Level Campaigns Included 1952. 1972, 2002-2004 for the SIR Process.

2025-2026 Period:

Phase I (Mid-2025): Voters In The State of Bihar (~ 8 Crores) Will be Creation Of The New Voter Records Prior to Voting For The State Legislative Election;

Phase II (Nov : No Data Available at This Time).



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Conclusion

The analysis on electoral integrity and reform shows the different phases from universal adult suffrage as enacted in 1951 to the use of EVM-VVPAT systems with AI integration in 2026. The transition away from using paper ballots to EVM-VVPAT systems has been legally and structurally hindered because the "criminalisation" of politics exists, much less the continued pursuing finance transparency following the abolition of Electoral Bonds. Additionally, the system is challenged socially via dual mandates: increasing inclusion and mitigating cognitive hacking through deepfake and misinformation campaigns that manipulate voters' choices. Lastly, the analytical potential of the 2026 post-Delimitation will weigh heavily as it introduces by far the largest structural risk to India's federal balance by transferring significant political power between regions throughout two decades of population decline. In addition, Special Intensive Revisions (SIR) as well as "One Nation, One Election" have expanded the reform effort beyond simply conducting elections to ensure that the process itself adheres to a "rule of process" that is technology resilient, financially transparent, and geographically equal to maintain democratic "sanctity of ballot" as society moves toward an even more unstable digital future.