

SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION (SIR) - ELECTORAL ROLLS, CITIZENSHIP AND THE LIMITS OF JUDICIAL SAFEGUARDS

- In Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) vs Election Commission of India (ECI), the Supreme Court, led by CJI Surya Kant, upheld the constitutional validity of the ECI's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.
- The judgment recognised clean voter rolls as essential to **democratic legitimacy**, but it has triggered concerns regarding exclusion, documentation burdens, and the **disenfranchisement** of vulnerable voters.

Why the Judgment Matters?

- **The judgment:**
 - It opens with a **striking observation**: Before counting votes, the state must first determine whose votes can be counted.
 - This frames the debate around electoral integrity versus democratic inclusion.
 - The Court accepted that electoral rolls had accumulated **inaccuracies** over time due to migration, urbanisation, duplicate entries, and deceased voters.
 - **Bihar** had not undergone an SIR for over two decades, making revision administratively necessary.

Key Constitutional Safeguard - Citizenship and Electoral Rolls:

- A major contribution of the judgment lies in drawing a **distinction** between electoral eligibility, and citizenship determination.
- The Court clarified that the ECI may **examine** citizenship only for deciding inclusion or exclusion from voter rolls. However, deletion from the electoral roll does not amount to declaring a person a non-citizen.
- Final determination of citizenship remains exclusively with authorities under the Citizenship Act.
- This distinction is significant because it prevents the SIR from becoming an indirect or “**backdoor NRC**”. The Court thus attempted to preserve constitutional **due process**.

The Central Critique - Revision or Fresh Enumeration?

- The Court failed to examine the most important objection: the present exercise was not merely a “revision” but effectively a **de novo/afresh enumeration**.
- For nearly three decades, electoral rolls had been refined through periodic summary revisions, reportedly achieving around 99% accuracy.
- Even the 2024 Lok Sabha elections were conducted using these rolls without serious challenge.
- The criticism is that the ECI discarded this accumulated institutional work and forced **massive re-verification** upon voters merely to correct residual inaccuracies.
- Thus, the exercise arguably exceeded the meaning of “SIR” under Section 21(3) - a major legal and conceptual gap.

Documentation Burden and Democratic Exclusion:

- The Court upheld the ECI’s documentation requirements as a valid exercise of **administrative discretion**.
- However,
 - India’s socio-economic reality:
 - Large numbers of poor citizens lack stable documentary proof of residence or identity.
 - The Elector’s Photo Identity Card (**EPIC**), previously treated as reliable proof, has effectively lost its value in the present exercise.
 - Creates the possibility of exclusion not because voters are ineligible, but because they cannot navigate bureaucratic requirements.

Conclusion:

- A voter roll is not merely an administrative record; it is a citizen’s proof of democratic belonging.
- If large numbers of poor citizens lose that recognition in the pursuit of “clean rolls,” the legitimacy of the democratic process itself comes under scrutiny.

THE BATTLE AGAINST AI MISINFORMATION

- AI has emerged as one of the most transformative technologies of the modern era, capable of revolutionising industries, governance, education, and communication.
- However, alongside these opportunities, AI also presents major risks such as misinformation, cybercrime, identity theft, and manipulation of digital content.
- Therefore, India must adopt a balanced approach that promotes innovation while ensuring regulation, accountability, and protection of public trust.

Threats Posed by AI

- **Impact on Academic Integrity**
 - AI tools can **fabricate degree** certificates, mark sheets, research papers, and official documents. This threatens originality and weakens trust in academic systems and scholarly work.
 - As AI-generated content becomes increasingly convincing, genuine documents and photographs may also be questioned.
 - This creates confusion between authentic and manipulated content, damaging trust in education, journalism, and public institutions.
- **Identity Theft and Personality Rights**
 - AI systems can imitate an individual's face, voice, and likeness with remarkable precision.
 - Celebrities and public figures in India have approached courts seeking protection against the unauthorised use of their identities by AI platforms.
- **Risks to the Judicial System**
 - The Supreme Court and various High Courts have criticised lawyers for submitting AI-generated arguments and fake legal citations without proper verification.
 - Such practices compromise judicial integrity and undermine confidence in legal proceedings.

Need for Regulation

- **Balancing Innovation and Accountability**
 - Excessive restrictions may hinder technological progress, while weak regulation could encourage widespread misuse and social harm.
 - A strong and balanced regulatory framework is essential to ensure that AI contributes positively to national development without threatening public trust or digital security.
- **Information Technology Rules, 2026**
 - The amended Information Technology Rules, 2026 represent an important step toward regulating AI-generated content.
 - These rules require disclosure of altered or AI-generated media and establish timelines for removing harmful synthetic content after receiving court orders or government notifications.
 - Additionally, complaints related to such content must be resolved quickly. These measures aim to strengthen transparency, accountability, and digital safety.
- **Need for Ethical Standards**
 - Beyond legal frameworks, there is also a need for a strong **code of ethics** for AI companies and digital platforms.
 - Technology firms must ensure that their systems are not used to spread false information or undermine trust in digital communication.
 - Ethical AI development is necessary to maintain credibility in the digital ecosystem.

Conclusion

- Artificial Intelligence offers India immense opportunities for **development, innovation,** and global technological leadership.
- A combination of effective regulation, platform accountability, ethical standards, and public digital awareness will ensure that AI becomes a force for national growth rather than digital manipulation.

CENTRAL INDUSTRIAL SECURITY FORCE



Central Industrial Security Force

- It is a Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) in India operating under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- It provides security to various critical infrastructures and important national installations.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Motto:** “Protection and Security”.
- **Establishment of Central Industrial Security Force:**
 - The idea of forming a specialised industrial security force gained urgency after the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965.
 - The CISF came into existence in 1969 through the CISF Act 1968 with a sanctioned strength of only three battalions.
 - The original charter of CISF was to provide integrated security cover to certain sensitive public sector undertakings.
 - The Act was amended in 1983, declaring the CISF as an Armed Force of the Union.
- **Organisation Structure of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF):**
 - It is headed by an Indian Police Service officer with the rank of Director-General, assisted by an IPS officer in the rank of Addl. Director-General.
 - The force is divided into seven sectors (Airport, North, North-East, East, West, South, and Training) and also has a Fire Service Wing.
 - The force consists of seven training institutes – six Recruit Training Centers and the National Industrial Security Academy (NISA).
- **Functions of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF):**
 - It provides security to India’s most critical infrastructure facilities, like nuclear installations, space establishments, airports, seaports, power plants, etc.

- In addition, the CISF also protects important government buildings, iconic heritage monuments, Delhi Metro, Parliament House Complex.
- CISF personnel are trained in disaster management techniques, enabling them to actively respond to natural **disasters like earthquakes, floods, and cyclones**.
- CISF is one of the largest Fire Protection Service providers in the country. CISF is the only force with a **customized and dedicated fire wing**.

CENTRAL CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY



- It was established under **Section 10 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019**.
- The Consumer Protection Act, 2019, which **replaced the 1986 Act**, came into force in 2020.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.
- **Composition of CCPA:**
 - **Chief Commissioner:** A **Chief Commissioner** heads the CCPA and has two other commissioners:
 - One commissioner deals with **goods-related issues**.
 - The other commissioner handles service-related complaints.
 - **Functions and Powers of CCPA:**
 - The CCPA **protects, promotes and enforces the rights of consumers** as a class under the Act.
 - It prevents unfair trade practices and curbs false or misleading advertisements.
 - It ensures that **no one publishes** or disseminates false or **misleading advertisements**.
 - It can **initiate class-action suits**, including recall, refunds, and cancellation of licenses, when necessary.

- The CCPA can conduct inquiries and investigations through its **investigation Wing, headed by a Director-General.**
- It can order the discontinuation of unfair practices, impose penalties on errant businesses, and enforce consumer welfare measures.

MISSION QUEEN PINEAPPLE



- It is designed for promoting Tripura's Unique Selling Proposition (USP) — the **GI-tagged Queen Pineapple.**
- **Objective:** It has an objective of establishing an **integrated pineapple value-chain ecosystem in the State.**
- The initiative aims to address **structural gaps and unlock the premium market potential** for Tripura's Queen Pineapple, transforming discarded leaves into wealth.
- **Time Period:** The Mission is designed as a **three-year implementation** roadmap from Q2 FY2026 to Q4 FY2028 for promoting Tripura's Unique Selling Proposition (USP),
- **Nodal Ministry:** Minister for the Development of North Eastern Region

Key Facts about Queen Pineapple:

- It is a spiny, golden-yellow variety known for its sweet taste, pleasant aroma, juicy flesh, and rich nutritional value.
- It contains **vitamins A, B, and C**, as well as minerals such as **calcium, magnesium, potassium, and iron.**
- The fruit has **Total Soluble Solids (TSS)**, or sweetness, ranging from **13 to 17.2 degrees Brix** and acidity levels between 0.6 and 0.8 per cent, giving it a balanced sweet-tart flavour.
- It is also the **state fruit of Tripura.**
- It received the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2015.**

PRADHAN MANTRI AWAAS YOJANA-GRAMIN



- It was **launched in 2016** by restructuring the erstwhile rural housing scheme **Indira Awas yojana (IAY)**.
- It aims to **provide financial assistance to eligible rural households**, including houseless families and those living in zero, one, or two-room kutchha houses, to construct pucca homes with basic amenities.
- **Target:** the Government initially set a target of **95 crore** houses for **FY 2016–17 to FY 2023–24** and approved the continuation of the scheme for **another 5 years** (FY 2024–25 to FY 2028–29) with an additional target of **2 crore houses**.
- **Minimum unit size:** Each house **must have at least 25 sq. m**, including a dedicated hygienic cooking area.
- **Financial Assistance and Funding:** The scheme provides direct financial support for house construction:
 - **Unit Assistance:** ₹1.20 lakh in plain areas and ₹1.30 lakh in hilly states (including North Eastern states, J&K, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand).
 - **Funding Pattern:**
 - The cost is shared between the **Central and State governments in the ratio 60:40** for plain areas and **90:10** for North Eastern and Himalayan states.
 - For **Union Territories without a legislature**, the Centre provides **100% of the funding**.
 - **Monitoring:** The entire process is managed through e-governance solutions like the **AwaasSoft Management Information System (MIS)** and the **AwaasApp mobile application**.



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Current Affairs - 29 May 2026



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SANCHI STUPA



- It was **built by the Mauryan emperor Ashoka** in the **third century BC**.

- It enshrines religious relics or remains of the **Buddha and his most revered disciples**.
- The development of the Sanchi complex was supported by **patronage from Vidisha's mercantile community**.
- It was in abject ruins when it was "discovered" by British **officer Henry Taylor in 1818**.
- Later on **Alexander Cunningham**, led the first formal survey and excavations at Sanchi in 1851.

Structure:

- It is enclosed by a **massive stone railing pierced by four gateways**, which are adorned with elaborate carvings (known as Sanchi sculpture).
- The stupa itself consists of a **base bearing a hemispherical dome** (anda), symbolizing the dome of heaven enclosing the earth.
- It is surmounted by a **squared rail unit** (harmika) representing the world mountain, from which rises a mast (yashti), symbolizing the cosmic axis.
- The mast **bears umbrellas** (chatras) that represent the various heavens (devaloka).