Special Intensive Revision 2026 in Telangana: A Constitutional Review of Electoral Roll Strengthening and Best Practices through Electoral Roll Integrity Score (ERI)

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Electoral rolls give practical effect to adult suffrage under Article 326 of the Constitution of India, and Article 325 protects every eligible person against exclusion from the general roll on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex. Annual summary revision updates the roll through claims and objections, whereas a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) rests on house-to-house enumeration of every elector. Telangana undertook an SIR in 2025–26, the first in the State since 2002, covering 33 districts and 119 Assembly Constituencies (ACs).

This paper examines SIR 2026 in Telangana from two angles. It first reviews the exercise against the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (Sections 16, 19, 20 and 22) and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, as amended in 2022. It then proposes the Electoral Roll Integrity Score (ERI), a composite indicator that summarises how the roll of an AC changed between the pre-SIR roll and the draft roll.

State-level figures are taken from Press Note No. 868/Elecs.B/B1/2026, issued by the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Telangana on 17 August 2026, which reports the findings of the enumeration phase (25 June to 10 August 2026). The Draft Roll published on 17 August 2026 contains 2,64,87,213 electors, against 3,38,26,448 before the revision, a reduction of 73,39,235 entries (21.70%). Of these, 9,22,229 (12.57%) were recorded as deceased, 57,46,803 (78.30%) as permanently shifted, absent or others, and 6,70,203 (9.13%) as enrolled at more than one place. The exercise involved 119 Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), 892 Assistant EROs, 3,590 Booth Level Officer (BLO) Supervisors and 35,985 BLOs, and 49,018 Booth Level Agents (BLAs) of political parties took part.

The ERI combines four dimensions, namely Coverage Integrity, Verification Accuracy, Roll Purity and Data Stability, with equal weights on a scale of 0 to 100. Its use is demonstrated on ten ACs, five urban and five rural, with illustrative AC-level figures, because the AC-wise abstract for all 119 ACs was still awaited. On these illustrative figures the average ERI is 82.43

for the urban ACs and 86.79 for the rural ACs, both in the Good band (80–89), and Roll Purity exceeds 99.3% in every AC. At the State level, 87.43% of the entries removed fall under the shifted, absent, others or duplicate heads, which the paper calls the System-Driven Update Share. A check that drops the Data Stability dimension, which repeats Coverage Integrity, moves several urban ACs to the Stable band, so the categories depend on the weighting used. The paper suggests that field verification and de-duplication account for most of the change in the roll, and it sets out policy suggestions for other States once the ERI has been tested on verified AC-level data.

Keywords: Special Intensive Revision, Electoral Roll Integrity Score, Article 326, Telangana, Chief Electoral Officer, electoral roll management

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full form
AC	Assembly Constituency
BLA	Booth Level Agent
BLO	Booth Level Officer
CEO	Chief Electoral Officer
CI	Coverage Integrity
DS	Data Stability
ECI	Election Commission of India
EPIC	Electors Photo Identity Card
ERI	Electoral Roll Integrity Score
ERO	Electoral Registration Officer
ERONET	Electoral Roll Management System
RP	Roll Purity
SIR	Special Intensive Revision
VA	Verification Accuracy

1. Introduction

The electoral roll is the document through which the right to vote is exercised in practice. Article 326 of the Constitution of India provides that elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of the States are held on the basis of adult suffrage, and Article 325 states that no person is to be ineligible for inclusion in a general electoral roll, or to claim inclusion in any special roll, on grounds only of religion, race, caste or sex.

Rolls are updated every year through summary revision, which depends largely on claims and objections filed by electors and political parties. A Special Intensive Revision works

differently. Booth Level Officers visit every household, collect enumeration forms and report on each entry, and the verified list is then published as a draft roll. Telangana carried out an SIR in 2025–26, the first in the State since 2002, and the Draft Roll was published on 17 August 2026.

This paper has two aims. The first is to review the constitutional and statutory basis on which the exercise was conducted. The second is to propose the Electoral Roll Integrity Score (ERI), which describes the change in an AC's roll in a single figure that can be compared across constituencies. The paper is an independent academic study, and the views expressed are the author's own.

1.1 Conceptual background

Electoral integrity is usually studied across the whole electoral cycle, and the voter register is one of the stages at which quality can be lost or protected (Norris, 2014). A register can fail in two directions. It can leave out eligible citizens, who are then unable to vote, or it can keep ineligible and duplicate entries, which weakens confidence in the count and leaves room for misuse. The literature on electoral management describes register quality in terms of both completeness and accuracy (Catt et al., 2014), and the two are separate problems: a step that removes doubtful entries can also remove genuine electors if it is carried out without care.

Countries differ in who carries the burden of registration. Where registration depends on an application by the citizen, the register reflects individual action, and a study of the introduction of registration requirements in the United States found that they lowered turnout (Ansolabehere & Konisky, 2006). Where the state builds the register from other records, the administration carries the burden instead (Massicotte et al., 2004). Even so, no system is free of error. A review of the American registration system by the Pew Center on the States (2012) found many records that were inaccurate or out of date, alongside many eligible citizens who were not registered.

India follows a model in which the Commission prepares the roll through Booth Level Officers, and citizens can also apply for inclusion, correction or deletion using the prescribed forms. Between revisions, the roll changes through these applications and through the annual summary revision. A Special Intensive Revision is the most thorough form of the first approach, because every entry is checked at the household. To the author's knowledge, few published measures summarise the quality of a roll at constituency level in a form that administrators can use. Reports usually give counts of additions and deletions, and these are

difficult to compare across constituencies of different size. The ERI is proposed to fill part of that gap.

1.2 Structure of the paper

Section 2 sets out the constitutional and statutory framework, Section 3 the reasons for the revision, and Section 4 the process and machinery. Sections 5 and 6 state the objectives and the methodology, including the construction of the ERI. Section 7 reports the results, Section 8 draws out policy implications, and Sections 9 and 10 give the conclusion and the limitations of the study.

2. Constitutional and Statutory Framework

Article 324 vests the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls in the Election Commission of India (ECI). The Supreme Court's decision in Mohinder Singh Gill v. Chief Election Commissioner (1978) is the usual authority on the width of the Commission's powers under this Article. The detailed conditions for registration are found in the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RP Act) and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

Under Section 19 of the RP Act, a person who is at least 18 years of age on the qualifying date and is ordinarily resident in a constituency is entitled to be registered there. Section 20 explains what ordinary residence means, and it provides that a person does not cease to be ordinarily resident only because of temporary absence. This matters for the present study because it bears on how electors are classified as shifted or absent. Section 16 disqualifies certain persons from registration, including those who are not citizens of India. Section 22 allows the ERO, after such inquiry as is considered fit, to correct an entry that is erroneous or defective, or to strike out the name of a person who has ceased to be ordinarily resident in the constituency. The 1960 Rules prescribe the forms used in the process, and the 2022 amendment added Form 6B for furnishing Aadhaar information. Table 1 summarises these provisions.

Table 1. Constitutional and statutory provisions relevant to SIR

Provision	Content	Relevance to SIR
Article 324	Superintendence, direction and control of electoral rolls vested in the ECI	Source of the Commission's authority to order an SIR
Article 325	No exclusion from the general roll on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex	Non-discrimination in inclusion
Article 326	Elections on the basis of adult suffrage; minimum age of 18 years	Eligibility base of the roll

Provision	Content	Relevance to SIR
RP Act 1950, Section 16	Disqualification from registration, including non-citizens	Removal of ineligible entries
RP Act 1950, Section 19	Conditions of registration: age and ordinary residence	Test applied at enumeration
RP Act 1950, Section 20	Meaning of ordinarily resident, and effect of temporary absence	Classification of shifted and absent electors
RP Act 1950, Section 22	Correction and deletion of entries after inquiry	Procedure for deletion
Registration of Electors Rules 1960, as amended in 2022	Forms 6, 6B, 7 and 8	Application, Aadhaar information, objection and correction

Source: Constitution of India; Representation of the People Act, 1950; Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, and Registration of Electors (Amendment) Rules, 2022.

2.1 Ordinary residence and the classification of electors

The removal categories used in the SIR are not equivalent in law. A deceased elector is a matter of fact that can usually be documented through a death record or a local inquiry. A duplicate entry is a matter of identification: the same person appears at two places, and one entry has to be kept. Shifted and absent cases turn on ordinary residence, which depends on facts and on intention. Under Section 20, owning a house in a constituency does not by itself make a person ordinarily resident there, and absence for work, study or a similar reason does not by itself end ordinary residence. An elector who has moved permanently to another constituency should be registered there, and one who is only temporarily away should stay on the roll.

The line between these two situations is where enumerators have to use the most judgement, and it is the reason this paper treats the shifted and absent heads with more caution than the deceased head. The State-level data group shifted, absent and other cases together, so the paper cannot say how the line was drawn in practice.

2.2 Procedural safeguards

Section 22 and the Rules require that a name be removed only after inquiry, in keeping with the principle that a person should be heard before an adverse step is taken. In the SIR schedule, the publication of the Draft Roll, the claims and objections period and the notice and disposal phase are the stages at which an elector marked for removal can respond. The notice phase is therefore the stage that limits wrongful exclusion, and Articles 325 and 326 are engaged if eligible electors are removed without a fair opportunity to be heard. For this reason the figures in this paper, which relate to the Draft Roll, should not be read as the number of electors who will be absent from the Final Roll.

3. Rationale for the 2026 Revision

Three purposes can be identified. The first is purification of the roll, that is, verification of entries relating to deceased, shifted, absent and duplicate electors in line with Section 22. The second is inclusion: a verified base makes it easier to add citizens who were left out. The third is preparedness for the next Assembly election in 2028 and the Lok Sabha election in 2029, which will both be held on this roll.

The revision was also expected to test two technical arrangements at the scale of a whole State, namely Aadhaar-based de-duplication and the use of ERONET and the BLO App, and to move the assessment of a revision from procedural completion towards measurable quality. The ERI proposed in this paper is meant to support the last of these.

4. Process and Machinery

The exercise ran in phases. Enumeration was carried out from 25 June to 10 August 2026 and the Draft Roll was published on 17 August 2026. The ECI revised the later dates of the schedule on 7 September 2026, so that claims and objections run until 7 October 2026, the notice phase until 5 November 2026, and the Final Roll is to be published on 9 November 2026. Table 2 gives the schedule.

Table 2. Schedule of SIR 2026, Telangana

Phase	Dates
Enumeration phase	25 June to 10 August 2026
Publication of Draft Roll	17 August 2026
Claims and objections	17 August to 7 October 2026
Notice phase and disposal	17 August to 5 November 2026
Publication of Final Roll	9 November 2026

Source: CEO Telangana, Press Note No. 868/Elecs.B/B1/2026 (17 August 2026), and ECI revised SIR schedule announced on 7 September 2026.

The field machinery is shown in Table 3. The number of polling stations rose from 35,985 to 36,353 after rationalisation, an addition of 368. Political parties took part through 49,018 BLAs, of whom 20,394 were nominated by BRS, 13,144 by INC and 11,621 by BJP. Involving party agents in verification is a useful check on the process because it gives the parties an early view of the entries proposed for removal.

Table 3. Machinery deployed for SIR 2026, Telangana

Functionary or unit	Number
Electoral Registration Officers	119
Assistant Electoral Registration Officers	892
BLO Supervisors	3,590
Booth Level Officers	35,985
Polling stations before rationalisation	35,985
Polling stations after rationalisation	36,353 (+368)
Booth Level Agents (all parties)	49,018
of which BRS	20,394
of which INC	13,144
of which BJP	11,621

Source: CEO Telangana, Press Note No. 868/Elecs.B/B1/2026 (17 August 2026).

5. Objectives

1. To compare the roll before and after SIR at AC level, with reference to the conditions of registration in Section 19.
2. To break down the entries removed into deceased, shifted, absent and duplicate categories.
3. To construct the ERI and apply it to ten major ACs, five urban and five rural.
4. To quantify the System-Driven Update Share.
5. To suggest policy measures that other States could adopt.

6. Methodology

6.1 Data

The study uses secondary data from the CEO Telangana: the Final Roll 2025, the Draft Roll 2026 and Press Note No. 868. The unit of analysis is the AC. Ten major ACs were chosen. The urban group consists of L.B. Nagar, Malkajgiri, Serilingampally, Khairatabad and Secunderabad, and the rural group of Siddipet, Gajwel, Sircilla, Nalgonda and Mahabubabad. Urban and rural classification follows the Census 2011 District Census Handbooks and the CEO’s list of ACs.

State-level figures are taken from Press Note No. 868 dated 17.08.2026 as last verified consolidated Draft Roll. Subsequent CEO portal updates show 60,50,918 electors in Anomalies and 32,36,659 in No Mapping categories with 92.88 lakh notices issued as on 01.09.2026, pending disposal till Final Roll on 09.11.2026 as per revised ECI schedule dated 07.09.2026.

6.2 Construction of the ERI

The ERI is the simple average of four dimensions, each expressed on a scale of 0 to 100. Table 4 defines them. In the formulas, "Before" is the number of electors on the pre-SIR roll, "After" is the number on the Draft Roll, "Total" is the number of entries removed, "Shifted" excludes the absent category, and "Duplicate" refers to electors enrolled at more than one place.

Table 4. Dimensions of the Electoral Roll Integrity Score

Dimension	Formula	What it describes
Coverage Integrity (CI)	(After ÷ Before) × 100	Share of the pre-SIR roll retained in the draft roll
Verification Accuracy (VA)	[1 − (Duplicate + Shifted) ÷ Total] × 100	Share of removals outside the duplicate and shifted heads
Roll Purity (RP)	[1 − Duplicate ÷ After] × 100	Share of the draft roll free of duplicate entries
Data Stability (DS)	[1 − Total ÷ Before] × 100	Stability of the roll at the draft stage

Source: Author's construction.

$$\mathbf{ERI = 0.25 \times CI + 0.25 \times VA + 0.25 \times RP + 0.25 \times DS}$$

Scores are read against the bands in Table 5.

Table 5. Interpretation of ERI scores

ERI score	Category	Suggested use
90–100	Model AC	Document as a good practice
80–89	Good	Maintain current practice
70–79	Stable	Monitor
Below 70	Focus AC	Priority support and handholding

Source: Author's construction.

As an example, take L.B. Nagar in Table 8. The roll fell from 6,45,200 to 6,28,500 electors, with 16,700 entries removed, of which 2,150 were duplicates and 9,500 were shifted. Coverage Integrity is 6,28,500 ÷ 6,45,200 × 100 = 97.41. Verification Accuracy is [1 − (2,150 + 9,500) ÷ 16,700] × 100 = 30.24. Roll Purity is [1 − 2,150 ÷ 6,28,500] × 100 = 99.66, and Data Stability is [1 − 16,700 ÷ 6,45,200] × 100 = 97.41. The ERI is the mean of the four, 81.18, which is in the Good band.

Three features of the score should be kept in mind. It lies between 0 and 100 and falls as removals rise and as a larger share of them are duplicate or shifted entries. Roll Purity differs little between ACs because duplicates are a small share of any roll, so it moves the ERI only slightly. And when the removals fully account for the difference between the two rolls,

Coverage Integrity and Data Stability are the same number, so the ERI in effect gives coverage half of its weight. Section 7.3 tests how much this matters.

6.3 System-Driven Update Share

The System-Driven Update Share is the proportion of removed entries that fall under the shifted, absent, others and duplicate heads: (Shifted/Absent/Others + Duplicate) ÷ Total × 100. Deceased entries are excluded because they arise from natural attrition and do not indicate anything about verification effort.

6.4 Data limitations

State-level figures come from the published Press Note. The AC-wise abstract for all 119 ACs was still awaited when the paper was written, so the AC-level figures used in Section 7 are illustrative. They are based on the usual size of an AC (roughly 2.5 to 3 lakh electors in rural areas and 5 to 6 lakh in urban areas) and are used only to show how the ERI is calculated. They must be replaced with figures from the published Draft Roll abstract before any conclusion is drawn about a particular AC.

7. Results

7.1 State-level change in the roll

Table 6 shows that the roll fell from 3,38,26,448 to 2,64,87,213 electors, a reduction of 73,39,235 entries, or 21.70% of the pre-SIR roll. All figures in this subsection are from the CEO's Press Note.

Table 6. Telangana electoral roll before and after SIR (Draft Roll)

Measure	Before SIR (2025)	Draft Roll (17.08.2026)	Net change
Total electors	3,38,26,448	2,64,87,213	−73,39,235 (−21.70%)

Source: CEO Telangana, Press Note No. 868/Elecs.B/B1/2026 (17 August 2026), Key findings of enumeration phase (25 June–10 August 2026).

Table 7 gives the reasons for removal. Shifted, absent and other cases account for a little under four-fifths of all removals. Deceased electors account for 12.57% and duplicate entries for 9.13%. Taking the shifted, absent, others and duplicate heads together, the System-Driven Update Share is 87.43%.

Table 7. Reason-wise breakup of entries removed, Telangana

Reason	Number	% of removals	Interpretation
Deceased	9,22,229	12.57	Natural attrition
Permanently shifted, absent or others	57,46,803	78.30	Mobility and non-residence
Enrolled at multiple places (duplicate)	6,70,203	9.13	Duplicate enrolment
Total	73,39,235	100.00	

Source: CEO Telangana, Press Note No. 868/Elecs.B/B1/2026 (17 August 2026), table on reason-wise nonenrolment. System-Driven Update Share = 87.43%, computed by the author.

7.2 Illustrative AC-level application of the ERI

Table 8 shows the verification details for the ten ACs and Table 9 the four ERI dimensions. As explained in Section 6.4, the AC-level figures are illustrative. The column "Removed (% of pre-SIR roll)" is Total ÷ Before × 100.

Table 8. Verification details for ten major ACs (illustrative figures)

AC No.	AC	Before	After	Deceased	Shifted	Absent	Duplicate	Total	Removed (%)	ERI
Urban major ACs										
49	L.B. Nagar	6,45,200	6,28,500	1,850	9,500	3,200	2,150	16,700	2.59	81.18
46	Malkajgiri	5,98,400	5,82,100	1,700	8,900	2,900	1,800	15,300	2.56	81.12
53	Serilingampally	5,75,300	5,61,200	1,600	8,200	2,600	1,700	14,100	2.45	81.15
64	Khairatabad	2,89,100	2,85,900	800	1,200	700	500	3,200	1.11	86.12
70	Secunderabad	3,12,450	3,05,100	1,100	3,800	1,500	950	7,350	2.35	82.59
Rural major ACs										
33	Siddipet	2,48,900	2,43,200	1,400	1,800	1,900	600	5,700	2.29	88.27
32	Gajwel	2,35,600	2,30,100	1,300	1,600	1,800	800	5,500	2.33	87.84
31	Sircilla	2,28,400	2,22,800	1,250	1,700	1,650	1,000	5,600	2.45	86.61
90	Nalgonda	2,42,300	2,36,500	1,350	2,100	1,750	600	5,800	2.39	87.10
109	Mahabubabad	2,15,670	2,07,780	1,200	3,500	2,800	1,390	8,890	4.12	84.14

Note. AC-level figures are illustrative and are used only to demonstrate the method in Section 6.2. State totals are from CEO Telangana, Press Note No. 868/Elecs.B/B1/2026 (17 August 2026). AC names and urban–rural classification follow the CEO's AC list and the Census 2011 District Census Handbooks. The figures are to be replaced with the Draft Roll abstract (voters.eci.gov.in) before publication.

Table 9. ERI dimensions and category for ten major ACs (illustrative figures)

AC	CI	VA	RP	DS	ERI	Category
Urban major ACs						
L.B. Nagar	97.41	30.24	99.66	97.41	81.18	Good
Malkajgiri	97.28	30.07	99.69	97.44	81.12	Good
Serilingampally	97.55	29.79	99.70	97.55	81.15	Good
Khairatabad	98.89	46.88	99.83	98.89	86.12	Good
Secunderabad	97.65	35.37	99.69	97.65	82.59	Good
Rural major ACs						
Siddipet	97.71	57.89	99.75	97.71	88.27	Good
Gajwel	97.67	56.36	99.65	97.67	87.84	Good

AC	CI	VA	RP	DS	ERI	Category
Sircilla	97.55	51.79	99.55	97.55	86.61	Good
Nalgonda	97.61	53.45	99.75	97.61	87.10	Good
Mahabubabad	96.34	44.99	99.33	95.88	84.14	Good

Source: Computed by the author using the formulas in Table 4 on illustrative data. Roll Purity above 99.3% in every AC reflects the low share of duplicate entries in the draft rolls.

Every one of the ten ACs falls in the Good band. Roll Purity is between 99.33 and 99.83, and Coverage Integrity and Data Stability are close to each other in all ACs. The main difference between ACs comes from Verification Accuracy, which ranges from 29.79 to 46.88 in the urban group and from 44.99 to 57.89 in the rural group.

Table 10. Urban and rural ACs compared (illustrative figures)

Group	No. of ACs	Average removed (%)	Average ERI	Average update share (%)
Urban major ACs	5	2.21	82.43	85.30
Rural major ACs	5	2.72	86.79	78.54

Source: Computed by the author from Table 8. The State-wide removal rate is 21.70% (Press Note No. 868, 17 August 2026).

7.3 Sensitivity of the ERI to its design

Because Coverage Integrity and Data Stability carry the same information, a simple check is to drop Data Stability and take the equal-weight average of the other three dimensions. Table 11 compares the two versions.

Table 11. ERI with four dimensions and with three dimensions (illustrative figures)

AC	ERI (four dimensions)	ERI (three dimensions)	Category (three dimensions)
Urban major ACs			
L.B. Nagar	81.18	75.77	Stable
Malkajgiri	81.12	75.68	Stable
Serilingampally	81.15	75.68	Stable
Khairatabad	86.12	81.86	Good
Secunderabad	82.59	77.57	Stable
Rural major ACs			
Siddipet	88.27	85.12	Good
Gajwel	87.84	84.56	Good
Sircilla	86.61	82.96	Good
Nalgonda	87.10	83.60	Good
Mahabubabad	84.14	80.22	Good

Source: Computed by the author. The three-dimension score is the average of CI, VA and RP.

The three-dimension score is lower than the four-dimension score in every AC, because Data Stability is above 95 everywhere. The average falls from 82.43 to 77.31 in the urban group and from 86.79 to 83.29 in the rural group, and 4 of the ten ACs move out of the Good band (L.B. Nagar, Malkajgiri, Serilingampally, Secunderabad). Rural ACs still score higher than urban ACs. The finding that all ten ACs are in the Good band therefore depends on the weighting, and the categories in Table 5 should be treated as provisional until the weights have been examined on verified data.

7.4 Discussion

A reduction of 21.70% is not surprising when 24 years separate the exercise from the previous intensive revision, since deaths, migration and repeat enrolment build up over such a period. What the State-level data show is that most removals, 87.43%, relate to people who moved, could not be found or were enrolled more than once, and only 12.57% relate to deaths. This suggests that house-to-house verification found entries that routine updating had not.

On the illustrative figures, the rural ACs score higher than the urban ACs (86.79 against 82.43), and the gap comes mainly from Verification Accuracy. Urban ACs in the sample have a larger share of shifted and duplicate entries among their removals. Because the AC data are illustrative, this pattern should be read as a description of how the score behaves and not as a finding about urban and rural rolls. The result on Roll Purity is of the same kind: it will hold only if the verified AC abstracts show similarly small numbers of duplicates.

Measured against the roll before revision, deceased entries are 2.73%, shifted, absent and other cases 16.99%, and duplicate entries 1.98%. The shifted, absent and others head is therefore by far the largest, and it is also the one on which the published data say least, because it groups cases that are treated differently under Section 20. Without a split, it is not possible to say how many of the 57,46,803 electors had moved permanently, how many could not be traced when the enumerator visited, and how many fall under other reasons. This limits what can be said about the quality of the classification.

Duplicate entries also deserve separate mention. The 6,70,203 duplicates equal 1.98% of the pre-SIR roll. Duplicates can arise when a person moves and registers again without asking for deletion at the old address, when repeated applications are made, and through data entry errors. Each cause has a different remedy, and the ERI treats them alike. The Roll Purity dimension should therefore be read as a broad indicator and not as a measure of any one cause.

The figures describe only one side of roll quality. A roll with fewer wrong entries is not necessarily a complete roll. Eligible citizens who were never enrolled, and those removed wrongly, are not captured by any of the four dimensions of the ERI. To measure these, the number of Form 6 applications received in the claims period, the number of names restored after notice, and the number of new electors added would be needed. These will be available only after the Final Roll is published, and a later version of the ERI could then include an inclusion component.

8. Policy Implications

8.1 Track the ERI every quarter, so that the quality of a roll can be followed between revisions and not only at the time of an SIR. Between revisions the roll changes through Forms 6, 7 and 8, and a regular score would show early which ACs are drifting. The score should be computed from the same fields each time so that quarters can be compared.

8.2 Strengthen the link between civil registration data and Aadhaar seeding. Death records and Aadhaar-based matching are the two most direct sources for identifying deceased and duplicate entries, and both reduce the reliance of BLOs on local inquiry alone. Any use of Aadhaar should stay within the framework of Form 6B and the safeguards attached to it.

8.3 Run targeted de-duplication drives in ACs where duplicate entries exceed a threshold, for example 1% of the roll. At State level the figure is 1.98% of the pre-SIR roll, so the threshold should be fixed only after verified AC-wise data are available, otherwise it will flag most ACs.

8.4 Use different approaches in rural and urban areas. In the illustrative data, urban ACs have more shifted and duplicate entries among their removals, which points to migration and repeat registration, while rural ACs have a larger share of deceased and absent cases. Matching-based checks may suit urban ACs better, and field verification with civil registration data may suit rural ACs.

8.5 Train BLOs on the classification of absent electors under Section 20, where the distinction between temporary absence and permanent shifting is most likely to be contested. Clear guidance with worked examples, and a record of the basis for each classification, would also help the ERO when hearing cases after notice.

8.6 Report shifted and absent cases separately. The present consolidated head is efficient for reporting, but separate figures would allow Section 20 to be examined directly and would make the ERI easier to test.

8.7 Publish the validation checks used alongside the ERI, so that others can reproduce the scores and examine the choice of weights.

8.8 Report inclusion alongside purity. Additions through Form 6, names restored after notice and the number of eligible citizens still outside the roll should be reported with the removal figures, so that a cleaner roll is not mistaken for a complete one.

Most of these measures concern reporting, training and the use of data, and they can be taken up within the existing framework of the RP Act and the Rules. Their purpose is to make the next revision easier to assess and easier to explain to electors.

9. Conclusion

The SIR of 2025–26 in Telangana reduced the roll from 3.38 crore to 2.64 crore entries at the draft stage. It was conducted under Articles 324 to 326 of the Constitution and the provisions of the RP Act, 1950 and the 1960 Rules, with the participation of party agents. The State-level data show that most of the removals relate to shifted, absent, other and duplicate entries, which points to the value of field verification and de-duplication.

The ERI offers a way to summarise such changes at AC level. On the illustrative data used here, all ten ACs fall in the Good band and Roll Purity is above 99.3%, but these figures show only how the score works, and the band depends on the weighting: with Data Stability dropped, several urban ACs move to the Stable band. Whether the Telangana experience can serve as a model for other States depends on testing the ERI on the verified AC-wise abstracts and on the outcome of the claims and objections phase.

10. Limitations and Future Research

The State-level figures are verified against the CEO's Press Note, but the AC-level figures are illustrative, and a full validation needs the abstract for all 119 ACs from the CEO's portal. The figures relate to the draft roll, and the Final Roll will differ once claims, objections and notices have been disposed of. The equal weights in the ERI are a choice made for simplicity and have not been tested empirically, and Section 7.3 shows that the categories change when one dimension is dropped. The ERI also treats a low removal rate as a sign of a stable roll, which may not suit a roll that has not been revised for 24 years. The ERI does not measure eligible citizens who are missing from the roll. The State-level data do not separate shifted from absent cases. Future work could replicate the analysis in other States, add an Aadhaar-based sub-

index, examine the relation between the ERI and turnout over time, and study differences by gender and age cohort.

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Declaration on Data Source and Ethics

The State-level figures (roll before SIR, Draft Roll, total removals and reason-wise removals) are taken from Press Note No. 868/Elecs.B/B1/2026 dated 17 August 2026. The AC-level figures are illustrative and were prepared only to demonstrate the ERI method; they are to be replaced with verified figures from voters.eci.gov.in before final publication. No personal elector data, EPIC numbers or Aadhaar data were used, and all analysis is at aggregate AC level. The paper is independent academic research, does not represent the official views of the Election Commission of India, and involves no conflict of interest. The similarity index and AI-content level are within the limits set in the call for papers, and AI assistance was limited to language editing.

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Annexure: ERI Formula Sheet

Item	Formula
Coverage Integrity (CI)	(After ÷ Before) × 100
Verification Accuracy (VA)	[1 − (Duplicate + Shifted) ÷ Total] × 100
Roll Purity (RP)	[1 − Duplicate ÷ After] × 100
Data Stability (DS)	[1 − Total ÷ Before] × 100, at the draft stage
ERI	0.25 × CI + 0.25 × VA + 0.25 × RP + 0.25 × DS
System-Driven Update Share	(Shifted/Absent/Others + Duplicate) ÷ Total × 100
Interpretation	90–100 Model AC; 80–89 Good; 70–79 Stable; below 70 Focus AC

Source: Author's construction. State totals from CEO Telangana, Press Note No. 868/Elecs.B/B1/2026 (17 August 2026).