

AITC PRESS RELEASE

- In Bihar, the integrity of our democracy is under direct threat. **According to a news report, in as many as 39 Assembly Constituencies, a staggering 1,87,643 cases [1.88 lakh] have been uncovered where individuals with the same name and the same relative's name have been registered twice within the very same constituency**
- In 1.02 lakh cases, duplicates exist where the names and parents' names are the same, with ages differing only by 0 to 5 years, making it impossible for polling officers to distinguish between entries. In 25,862 cases, every credential matches, names, relatives' names, and ages, yet these individuals appear twice on the rolls
- The total votes of these dubious cases amount to 3.76 lakh across 39 constituencies. This is not a minor clerical error. If even a fraction of these votes are fraudulent, they have the potential to decisively alter election outcomes
- These irregularities were found after the Election Commission of India carried out its controversial 30-day Special Intensive Revision in Bihar, during which it claimed to have removed over 7 lakh duplicates, or 0.89% of electors. Yet, despite such claims, these dubious voters remain on the draft rolls
- Most alarming are 16,375 cases where the duplicates are spitting replicas of each other - names, relatives' names, ages, and even addresses either exactly match or are located just kilometres apart. These were the simplest cases for the Commission to detect, yet they remain in the draft rolls
- A similar news report had first exposed this problem in 15 constituencies. On 31 August, the ECI responded to the matter on social media but pointedly did not deny the facts, figures, or assertions. Instead, it dismissed the investigation by the media outlet as "data mining", even though the process used was exactly what the ECI's own ERONET 2.0 software is designed to do
- The ECI had also gone out of its way to block public scrutiny by publishing the Bihar rolls in a non-machine-readable format. Independent analysts had to break this firewall to identify the duplication. Only the ECI has the authority and resources to validate these duplications on the ground, yet it has failed to do so
- This is not the first time such lapses have been exposed. Earlier investigations revealed over 5,000 voters simultaneously registered in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, and another 80,000 voters registered on fake or wrong addresses in just three constituencies. The Commission has not issued substantive rebuttals to these findings
- The Commission claims that voters themselves must file claims and objections to remove duplicates by 1 September. This is nothing but passing the buck. Deduplication is the statutory responsibility of the ECI, which it claims to do before publishing draft rolls. Yet it now seeks to push this burden onto ordinary voters, while offering no explanation of how its so-called removal of 7 lakh duplicates was conducted

- This exposes not just administrative negligence but deliberate complicity. By allowing nearly 1.88 lakh dubious voters to remain on the draft rolls in Bihar alone, the ECI is enabling electoral fraud on a massive scale. These duplications create space for manipulation that benefits the BJP and are part of its unholy nexus with the Election Commission
- The Supreme Court is now set to hear pleas on extending the deadline for objections to Bihar's draft electoral roll. This makes it clear that citizens, Opposition parties, and independent organisations have to step in to safeguard democracy, because the very institution tasked with protecting free and fair elections has abdicated its duty
- **On 7 March 2025, the Election Commission publicly promised to resolve the decades-long issue of duplicate EPIC numbers within three months, by 7 June 2025. Yet, in its press note of 27 July 2025, the same Commission admitted that through the SIR in Bihar, it had found 7 lakh voters enrolled at multiple places. Despite this admission, shocking evidence now shows that in just 39 Assembly Constituencies of Bihar alone, 1.88 duplicate cases still remain**
- This raises some serious questions: What was the purpose of the SIR if such massive duplication continues? How many more such cases exist across Bihar and India? And who is truly benefitting from the presence of these fraudulent voters?
- If the Commission failed to honour its own promise and allowed this malpractice to persist, should accountability not be fixed, and should an FIR not be filed against the former Chief Election Commissioner for dereliction of duty?
- This is not just about Bihar. If this is the state of affairs in one State, imagine the scale of manipulation across India. The BJP, hand in glove with a compromised Election Commission, is attempting to undermine the most fundamental pillar of democracy: free and fair elections
- This brazen duplication of voters in Bihar proves that the SIR exercise is being conducted in a hurried and unscientific manner, designed not to clean the rolls but to create room for manipulation. That is why we strongly oppose the same flawed exercise being undertaken in Bengal
- The Election Commission has ignored its own statutory procedures for deduplication, publishing draft rolls riddled with errors and inconsistencies. This careless approach undermines public trust and shows that the process is being rushed only to serve the BJP's political agenda. If nearly 1.88 lakh dubious voters can appear in Bihar alone even after the so-called revision, it exposes the danger of the same exercise being misused in Bengal to distort the mandate of the people
- It was Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who was one of the first to highlight the ghost voter issue during her February 27 address at Kolkata's Netaji Indoor Stadium. Even AITC National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee raised the same concern and pointed out how fake voters were added just before the Assembly Elections in Maharashtra and Delhi
- Only after AITC raised concerns about fake voters did the ECI take a significant step to address the issue and introduced a new feature in its software to help Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) detect whether multiple names are registered under a

single EPIC number. The Commission has already informed all Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of the States regarding this new measure. Why would someone introduce a new system if there was no fault in the existing one?

- The BJP fought and won the 2024 Lok Sabha elections based on the same voter list. Where was this concern about Rohingyas and Bangladeshis then? Why raise it now just before the State elections? If the voter list was good enough for Narendra Modi to become Prime Minister, why is it being questioned now? Isn't that hypocrisy?
- Even BJP MP & Union Minister Sukanta Majumdar's wife, Koyel Majumdar, is registered as a voter in both Balurghat and Jalpaiguri, having used Form 6 for new enrolment without cancelling her earlier ID through Form 8. If they were truly honest, why did they not get this corrected immediately?
- In solidarity with this fight to safeguard democracy, AITC leaders Yusuf Pathan and Lalitesh Tripathi reached Patna to represent the party in the concluding leg of the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra'. Alongside our INDIA bloc partners, we will raise our collective voice against this blatant attempt to rig the system
- An important issue has come to light. As you all know, under the directives of our leader Mamata Banerjee, the AITC launched a protest against the attacks on the Bengali language and Bengali identity. For this, the protest stage, the 'Bhasha Andolan Dharna Manch', was set up at the base of the Gandhi statue in Dharmatala, where programmes were held every weekend.
- Today, however, it was noticed that the Army dismantled our Dharna Manch and removed our banners. If the Army truly had any objections, they could have communicated them, and the decorators who set up the stage would have taken necessary steps. Instead, this is a deliberate attempt to suppress AITC's protest with the help of the Army. They could not silence us through financial penalties, central agencies, the BJP, or its committees, and now they are resorting to using the Army
- **The Army has not only dismantled our Dharna Manch but also torn down the backdrop carrying the image of Mamata Banerjee. This insult will be answered in the upcoming 2026 Assembly Elections. But we will not be provoked by this. We will instead conduct all our programmes at Rani Rashmoni Road**

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