

# Linking Aadhaar with voter ID

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## Context

The Election Commission of India has asked the Union government to remove the requirement for voters to give reasons if they choose not to **link their Aadhaar number with their voter ID card**.

## Representation of People Act

- The Parliament passed two laws to provide a criminal framework for the behavior of elections:
  - The Representation of the People Act, 1950,
  - The Representation of the People Act, 1951
- The 1950 Act offers for
  - allocation of seats and delimitation of constituencies for elections,
  - qualifications of electorate,
  - guidance of electoral rolls.
- The 1951 Act regulates the actual conduct of elections and with the aid of-elections. It provides for the conduct of elections and offences and disputes associated with elections.
- It additionally offers with the registration of political parties, the qualifications and disqualifications for membership of the Houses.

## Previous attempt to link voter card and Aadhaar number

- The EC had in 2015 taken up linking of voter card and Aadhaar variety as a part of its National Electoral Roll Purification and Authentication Programme.

- The purpose of the drive was to take away bogus or replica entries from the electoral roll.
  - Around 32 crore Aadhaar numbers have been seeded at that point.
  - However, this initiative was halted by the Supreme Court in August 2015 via its famous protection of privacy judgement in the Puttaswamy case.
  - This Puttaswamy case has challenged the validity of Aadhaar scheme and Aadhaar Act, 2016”.
  - In August 2015, the Supreme Court exceeded an intervening time order in this case.
- The order prohibited Aadhaar from getting used for any reason apart from the nation-facilitated distribution of meals grain and cooking fuel including kerosene and LPG.
- In 2019, the EC again proposed linking Aadhaar with the electoral roll, asking the government to amend the election legal guidelines to permit gathering of Aadhaar information
- The government then delivered the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which was passed by the Parliament in December 2021, to allow the linking of Aadhaar and Voter IDs.
- Under the Act, the EC re-began the gathering of Aadhaar numbers from July 2022 on a voluntary basis.
- A new Form, Form 6B, was added for present electors to present their Aadhaar wide variety and the shape for brand spanking new registrations was amended as nicely.
- It was again challenged in the Supreme Court.
  - The Form 6B gave simplest two options — both provide the Aadhaar number or say one does no longer possess an Aadhaar.
  - This would force individuals who did not want to present their Aadhaar quantity into creating a false declaration.
  - The petition sought directions to the Election Commission and the government to make amendments so individuals who don't want to link their Aadhaar and Voter ID have that option.
  - As a result, EC informed the court docket in September that it might make the clarificatory modifications required.

## Broad reasons in assist of the linkage

- Improving the accuracy of the electoral rolls, by removing duplication and misrepresentation in electoral rolls;
- Assistance in the ECI's plans to enforce superior mechanisms along with digital and internet-primarily based voting;
- Giving 'remote' voting rights to domestic migrants; and
- To facilitate proxy voting which may also require Aadhaar backing for voter verification.

**Source:** [The Indian express](#)

**Q. Consider the following statements: (2018)**

1. Aadhaar card can be used as a proof of citizenship or domicile.
2. Once issued, Aadhaar number cannot be deactivated or omitted by the Issuing Authority.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only                      b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2            d. Neither 1 nor 2

Ans - "d"