



# Electoral roll complete, Delhi has 1.23 cr voters

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**O**VERCOMING challenges, the State Election Commission has added 3.94 lakh voters to its final roll, to be published on January 15. It has managed to bring reluctant youth, landlords, tenants, marginalised sections of society and those living on encroached government land into the count.

For the upcoming Assembly election, according to the final tally, Delhi has a total of 1.23 crore eligible voters — 68.5 lakh men, 54 lakh women, and 332 transgenders.

Even though the electors to population ratio has seen an increase of 2.26 per cent, it still stands at 70.45 per cent, which may further “decline after the suo motu deletion of about 14 lakh dead, shifted and replicated voters who were identified during the house-to-house survey”.

Officials said the exercise would be carried out after publication of the final Electoral Roll on January 15.

Of the total voters enrolled till date, 4.1 per cent still do not have their Voter’s ID, while 5.78 per cent do not have their photos on the election roll.

“While Delhi has been bad with the EPIC (electoral picture identity card) and PER (photo electoral ratio) ratios, both categories have seen a marginal increase. The EPIC ratio, at present, is 95.99 per cent, while the PER ratio is 94.24 per cent. It should ideally be 100 per cent — something that we will seek to achieve during a special drive in

## THE HEADCOUNT

**1.23 crore**

Total number of voters

**MEN: 68.5 LAKH**

**WOMEN: 54 LAKH**

**TRANSGENDERS: 332**

Newly added voters: **3.94 lakh**

**4.1 per cent** do not have Voter’s ID

**5.78 per cent** do not have photos on the election roll

February and March,” a senior electoral official said.

Following the Election Commission of India’s theme of ‘inclusion’ and ‘due process’ for the upcoming election, the Delhi Election Commission has added a good percentage of homeless, transgenders, and sex workers in the ambit of voters, together with an addition of over a lakh of new voters in the age group of 18-19.

“The 18-19 age group is the most important and finds minimal representation at 0.5 per cent, when it should be over two per cent, according to Census figures. Over a lakh voters have been added in this category since October last — from 93,811 to 1,99,889 now. We have seen the energy of our youth in the form of recent protests and candlelight vigils. The moot idea is to channelise that energy institutionally by making them vote, elect and then engage with their elected representatives,” Delhi’s Chief Electoral Officer Vijay Dev told *Newsline*.

He said the ECI’s theme for this year’s National Voters’ Day — to be celebrated across the country on January 25 — is to work on ‘inclusion’ and ‘due process’. Delhi will celebrate the day by distributing the new voters’ cards across all districts.

The recommendation for the work comes from the present electoral roll, Dev said, which shows that representation from youth, women and other marginalised sections is much less than desired when compared to the actual population figures.

“By due process we mean that when an application is rejected, the Election Commission is duty-bound to communicate the grounds for rejection via SMS, email, or post, whichever is applicable,” Dev said.

The count of the number of homeless voters in Delhi has gone up from 62 — in the draft roll published on October 15, 2012, according to the cumulative summary revision process — to 6,557 after a special campaign.

According to a 2010 Homeless Survey, done by the Delhi government in collaboration with the UNDP, the Capital has a total population of 55,955 homeless people.

“Instructions regarding homeless people have been changed by the ECI. There are orders that no proof of residence would be required if a booth-level officer has spotted a certain person at the same spot three times. The campaign to enrol more homeless people will continue,” an official said.