



60% of Voters Linked Aadhaar to Voter ID

For Prelims: Election Commission (EC), Aadhaar number, Puttaswamy case (Right to Privacy), Digital Personal Data Protection(DPDP) Bill, 2022

For Mains: Status of Aadhaar Linking in India, Issues Related to Linking Aadhaar with Voter ID.

Why in News?

According to the [Election Commission \(EC\)](#), over **60% of India's 94.5 crore voters** have linked their [Aadhaar number](#) to their voter IDs.

What is the Status of Aadhaar Linking in India?

- **Tripura** has the **highest rate of Aadhaar linking**, with over **92% of voters in the state providing their Aadhaar details to the EC**.
- **Lakshadweep and Madhya Pradesh** have the **second and third highest rates** of Aadhaar linking, with over **91% and 86% of voters** having provided the number respectively.
- **Southern states have lower proportions** of Aadhaar registration compared to the national average, with **Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka falling shy of 71%**, and **Tamil Nadu and Kerala** standing around 63% and 61%.
- **Gujarat has the lowest Aadhaar registration by voters**, with only **31.5% of voters linking the document** to their voter registration.
 - Also, less than **34% of voters** in Delhi had their Aadhaar linked.

Why is the Government Pushing to Link Voter ID with Aadhaar?

- **Update Database:**
 - The linking project would help the Election Commission, which conducts regular exercises to maintain an **updated and accurate record of the voter base**.
- **Remove Duplication:**
 - To weed out duplication of voters, such as [migrant workers](#) who may have been registered more than once on the electoral rolls in different constituencies or for persons registered multiple times within the same constituency.
- **Pan India Voter ID:**
 - As per the government, linkage of Aadhaar with voter IDs will **assist in ensuring that only one Voter ID is issued per citizen of India**.

What are the Issues Related to Linking Aadhaar with Voter ID?

- **Unclear Constitutional Status:**
 - In the [Puttaswamy case\(Right to Privacy\)](#), one of the questions that the [Supreme Court](#) explored was **whether the mandatory linking of Aadhaar with bank accounts** was constitutional or not.
- **Different Purpose:**

- The **preference for Aadhaar for the purposes of determining voters is puzzling as Aadhaar is only proof of residence and not proof of citizenship.**
 - Therefore, verifying voter identity against this will only help in **tackling duplication but will not remove voters** who are not citizens of India from the electoral rolls.

Conclusion

- Along with pursuing the Aadhaar-Voter ID integration, the government shall also look forward to enacting the [Digital Personal Data Protection\(DPDP\) Bill, 2022](#). The DPDP regime must also **apply to government entities and require them to obtain an individual's explicit consent** before sharing their data across various government institutions.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

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)

Mains

Q. Examine the scope of Fundamental Rights in the light of the latest judgement of the Supreme Court on Right to Privacy (2017)

Source: [TH](#)