

# PSIR & GS-2 Daily Brief

**About this initiative :** Briefs, scans the best academic platforms, national newspapers & leading think tanks to pick the most relevant articles & research. It converts them into crisp, high-impact points you can directly use in your mains answers.

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Optional by  
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## Article - 1

West Asia deadlock deepens India's risks :  
Deccan Herald

## Article - 2

2026 NPT Review Conference ;debates about nuclear sharing : IDSA

## Article - 3

Electoral roll purges raise constitutional questions :  
The Hindu

# Article - 1 : West Asia deadlock deepens India's risks



## West Asia deadlock deepens India's risks

The extended fuel blockade necessitates a diversification of supply and bolder strategic play

DH DHNS Last Updated : 28 April 2026, 00:41 IST

**Context** How the Iran-Israel-US conflict in West Asia can hurt India through oil prices, inflation, rupee pressure, diaspora safety, shipping lanes and India's Iran policy.

## Facts

■ Strait of Hormuz carries 20% of global oil supplies.

■ India's risks are inflation, weak rupee, higher import bills & pressure on growth.

■ IMF - Emerging Market and Developing Economies (EMDEs) may suffer almost twice as much as advanced economies in a severe energy shock.

## Analytical Crux

India's West Asia problem is not only diplomatic; it is also economic & social. A conflict around the strait of Hormuz can quickly become an Indian inflation, rupee, fertiliser, transport and diaspora problem. India's foreign exchange reserves and low current account deficit give some cushion, but they cannot solve structural dependence on Gulf energy. The solution is diversification of energy supplies, strategic reserves, renewables and active diplomacy to protect sea lanes. The main concern is whether India can protect its ties with Iran, especially Chabahar, while handling US sanctions pressure.

## Verbatim Quotes

"New Delhi's diplomatic heft must be put to work to secure shipping lanes to ensure a steady flow of fuel."

# Article - 2 : 2026 NPT Review Conference ; debates about nuclear sharing



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2026 NPT Review Conference: Debates about Nuclear-Sharing

April 27, 2026 | Issue Brief



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**Context** Nuclear-sharing, extended deterrence and Europe's changing nuclear posture are becoming major issues in the 2026 NPT Review Conference.

## Facts

■ Russia stationed nuclear weapons in Belarus, despite criticising NATO nuclear-sharing.

■ The debate is : nuclear-sharing may support non-proliferation, but it weakens the spirit of disarmament.

■ France declared Forward Deterrence in March 2026 - allows European allies to join French deterrence exercises & permits temporary deployment of elements of the French strategic air force to allied countries.

## Analytical Crux

There is an inner contradiction of the nuclear order. Nuclear-sharing can stop non-nuclear weapon states from developing their own, but it keeps nuclear weapons central to security thinking. Europe's doubt about US protection is pushing France, the UK and Germany toward a stronger European deterrence system. Russia and China question NATO's nuclear practices, but Russia's own nuclear deployment in Belarus weakens its case.

## Verbatim Quotes

"Nuclear weapons have been considered in the security calculus of nations runs contrary to the objective of nuclear disarmament." — Niranjan Chandrashekhara Oak

"Europe saw significant structural changes in the nuclear realm: the pursuit of Europe's independent nuclear deterrent and an increase in the number of nuclear warheads held by France and the UK." — Niranjan Chandrashekhara Oak

# Article - 3 : Electoral roll purges raise constitutional questions

## Electoral roll purges raise constitutional questions

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has invented the term "logical discrepancy" to delete voters from the voters' list in the recent elections (the States of Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, and the Union Territory of Puducherry). It is alleged that lakhs of voters have been removed from the voter list in States where elections have been held recently. Even the Supreme Court of India's innovative idea of tribunals could not get these voters back onto the list, mainly because of the near-total mess created by the ECI's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls exercise.

It has been pointed out by many commentators – including this writer in this daily – that the SIR, as designed by the ECI, is deeply flawed and, if continued, will result in the elimination of a very large number of Indian citizens from the electoral roll. Media reports indicate an alarming situation, particularly in West Bengal, where lakhs of genuine citizens have had their names removed from the electoral roll and placed under the category of "logical discrepancies". The fact is that many of them were unable to vote in the election/first phase of the election.

### Citizenship as basic requirement

The issue of the elimination of people from the voter list revolves around the question of citizenship. Article 326 enjoins that every person who is a citizen of India and who is not less than 18 years of age and who is not disqualified under the Constitution or law shall be entitled to be registered "as a voter at any election". Thus, citizenship is the basic requirement for anyone to be registered as a voter.

The citizenship law is administered by the Union Home Ministry. Therefore, it is the duty of the Ministry to announce the list of documents required to prove the citizenship of Indians. However, as far as is known, the Ministry has not issued any such list.

Instead, the ECI announced a list of documents at the time of initiating the SIR in Bihar. Since many documents that citizens normally use for various purposes, such as Aadhaar card, ration card, and even the photo voter identity card issued by the ECI itself, were not accepted by the ECI as proof of citizenship, people began running



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Voter deletions under the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls raise concerns over constitutional and procedural validity

helter-skelter in search of the documents listed by the ECI. Many of such documents were hard to find, especially for rural people who are not in the habit of preserving such documents. Thus, as many as 91 lakh voters were removed from the voter list in West Bengal because they could not produce the documents that the ECI required to prove their citizenship

### Duty of the Home Ministry

A question of great constitutional significance arises here. Does the ECI have the power under Article 324 to determine what documents the citizens should produce to prove their citizenship? The simple answer is that such power is vested in the Union Home Ministry, and it is the constitutional duty of the Home Ministry to announce publicly the documents required for this purpose. The ECI can only verify those documents while enrolling citizens in the voters' list. Here, the ECI is acting beyond its jurisdiction. Article 324 does not empower the ECI to usurp the power of the Home Ministry. But it is surprising that the Supreme Court did not address this question when the issue of documents came before it. It was expected that the Court would direct the Union government to announce the list of documents and submit an affidavit in this regard. Instead, the Court merely requested the ECI to consider whether the Aadhaar card could also be counted as a relevant document.

The SIR has been conducted in the election-bound States, deviating from the law. Section 21 in The Representation Of The People Act, 1950 says that the electoral roll shall be revised before each general election and before a bye-election and also in any year as directed by the ECI. Apart from these the ECI can also undertake a special revision of the roll of a constituency or part of it for reasons to be recorded. Rule 25 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 explains that the revision can be done summarily or intensively, which makes it clear that pre-election revision is summary in nature and the revision done in any year (when there is no election coming up) is intensive.

A combined reading of Section 21(2) of The Representation Of The People Act, 1950, and Rule 25 of the Registration of Electors Rules makes it clear that only a summary revision of the rules

can be done before the general election or any bye-election.

The intensive revision can be done at any other time when elections are not due, the reason being that such a revision is very comprehensive and the voters' list needs to be prepared afresh. It is a very time-consuming exercise and cannot be done in such a hasty manner. The SIR conducted by the ECI a couple of months before the Bihar election, and, thereafter, in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal is thus a clear deviation from the law and past practice.

In West Bengal, where the SIR exercise was absolutely chaotic, over 91 lakh voters have been removed from the voter list, many of whom have been placed in the category of "logical discrepancy". This categorisation of citizens is unknown to the election law. The Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 lays out a detailed scheme for the preparation of the electoral roll. Besides, the ECI has issued detailed instructions, one of which is that the booth-level officers (BLOs) should distribute enumeration forms to all existing electors through house-to-house visits.

Rule 8 clearly states that the occupants of the dwelling houses shall furnish the information called for to the best of their ability. This should mean that the ECI will have to accept the information that the occupants of the house have collected to the best of their ability. It makes no sense for the ECI to insist on obtaining information that, in the normal course, is not possible to procure, particularly for unlettered rural people in remote parts of the country. The fact that 64 lakh voters in Bihar and 91 lakh in West Bengal were removed from the voters' list amply demonstrates the deliberate non-adherence to this and other rules by the ECI.

### An instance of violations

The object of this hastily conducted SIR seems to be to remove millions of voters from the voters' list. Media reports suggest that much of these deletions have been done without giving those affected a hearing, which is a blatant denial of natural justice as well as a violation of statutory provisions. Free and fair elections cannot be ensured by deviating from or violating the statute. The justice system in the country cannot permanently turn a blind eye to it.

## Context

Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision & mass voter deletions raise serious constitutional questions about citizenship, voting rights, institutional limits and natural justice.

## Facts

Section 21 of RPA 1950 & Rule 25 of Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 are central to electoral roll revision.

ECI used the term "logical discrepancy" to delete voters from electoral rolls but it is unknown to election law.

## Analytical Crux

The issue is not merely deletion of names from voter lists; the deeper issue is whether ECI can decide citizenship documents. Article 326 gives adult citizens the right to be registered as voters, while citizenship law is handled by the Union Home Ministry. ECI's role should be of verification, not deciding citizenship. Intensive revision just before elections can turn a technical exercise into democratic exclusion.

## Verbatim Quotes

"Free and fair elections cannot be ensured by deviating from or violating the statute."

— P.D.T. Achary

"The justice system in the country cannot permanently turn a blind eye to it."

— P.D.T. Achary

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