

Voters up 34.6 lakh, female-to-male ratio rises to 922

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Pune: The state electorate has increased by 34.6 lakh to nearly 9.2 crore voters for the 2024 Lok Sabha poll from approximately 8.8 crore in 2019. Of these, 4.8 crore are men and 4.4 crore women.

Aggressive door-to-door registrations and a functioning online voter registration system have not only helped a higher number of women voters register but also scaled up first-time voters in the 18-19 age group.

Officials from the chief electoral office said the special summary revision programme and the door-to-door survey campaign for updating electoral rolls helped add voters.

“Names of 24.33 lakh voters were added in the draft electoral roll of October 2023 under revision programme and about 20.21 lakh names were deleted. Therefore, 4.12 lakh electors were added in all, taking total number of electors in the final roll to 9.13 crore.”

In revision drives carried out in 2023 to update data on names and addresses and for enrolling new voters, registration of women electors was higher than of male voters. While there was a net increase of 1.01 crore men covered by the exercise, there was an even more significant increase of 3.08 crore in women electors covered by it. Self-help groups, anganwadi workers, and housing societies helped reach out to more women, improving the ratio of female to male voters from 917 to 922.

Anjali Radkar, a demographer with Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, said, “Studies show that women live longer, so there will be more women voters in the 50-

plus group,” she added.

Third gender registrations were up by 572 and those of service voters increased by 15,141. Service voters are those on poll duty who are allowed to cast their votes through postal ballot.

New Electors May Decide Voting Trends

Campus drives in colleges and organizations ensured the addition of 6.70 lakh new electors in the 18-19 age group and 8.33 lakh electors in the 20-29 age group.

In the first group, there were 3,48,691 (0.38% of total voter population) names in the draft roll which increased to 10,18,993 (1.12%) in the final list in Jan. Second group had 1,55,11,376 (17.8%) in the draft

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roll which rose to 1,63,44,872 (17.91%) in the final list.

Chandrakant Bhujbal, a political analyst from Political Research and Analyzes Bureau, said voting trends in the upcoming election will be shaped by ballots from new electors and women.

“Urban areas have shown an increase in voters. The role of the newly included electorate (women and youth) will be important. Voting trends will also depend on which party the young voters favour. Polling booths have not increased but they have been shifted for voters’ convenience,” he added.

HOW THE NUMBERS STACK UP