


# 13.11.2026 NEWS

## TAMIL NADU HAS 5.77 CRORE VOTERS

- Tamil Nadu Draft Electoral Roll Released After Special Summary Revision (SSR). The draft electoral roll containing 5.77 crore voters was released in Tamil Nadu following the Special Summary Revision (SSR).
- The electoral roll includes:
  - Male voters: 2,82,03,992
  - Female voters: 2,95,34,734
  - Third-gender voters: 7,892
- Assembly Constituencies with the Highest and Lowest Number of Voters. Highest number of voters: Sholinganallur Assembly Constituency in Chengalpattu district, with 5,58,729 voters. Lowest number of voters: Harbour Assembly Constituency in Chennai district, with 1,20,852 voters. Forms for Electoral Roll Registration and Corrections
- Archana Patnaik stated that voters should use the following forms for registration, deletion, correction, and other electoral roll-related services:
- Form 6: For individuals whose names are not included in the electoral roll to apply for voter registration.
- Form 6A: For overseas Indian voters to apply for inclusion in the electoral roll.
- Form 7: For submitting objections regarding the inclusion or deletion of names in the electoral roll.
- Form 8: For shifting residence, correcting electoral roll details, or obtaining a replacement Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC).

## DID ARYABHATA SAY THAT THE SUN REVOLVES AROUND THE EARTH?

### » What Does Aryabhatiya Actually Say?

- There is no doubt that Aryabhata was a thinker ahead of his time. In 499 CE, at the age of just 23, he wrote his famous work, Aryabhatiya. This book consists of four sections. In one of these sections, called Golapada (Gola Adhyaya), Aryabhata presented several revolutionary ideas.
- He clearly explained that the Earth is a spherical body floating freely in space without any physical support. He also stated that the apparent daily movement of stars across the sky is caused by the rotation of the Earth on its own axis.
- According to the astronomical description in the text, the spherical Earth, made up of four elements—earth, water, fire and air—is situated at the centre of the celestial sphere, surrounded by the stars and the orbital paths of the planets.
- This clearly indicates a geocentric (Earth-centred) model of the universe. Commentaries written by scholars, including Bhaskara, help clarify this interpretation. They explain that the term Khamadhya refers to the exact centre of the celestial sphere.

- Therefore, according to this astronomical model, the Earth occupies the central position, and the Sun and other planets move around it. If that is the case, how did the idea arise that Aryabhata proposed the heliocentric (Sun-centred) theory?
- Aryabhata used two types of mathematical epicycles to calculate the movements of planets. These were known as : Shighra – Fast epicycle; Manda – Slow epicycle
- In 1970, mathematician B. L. van der Waerden argued that the orbital periods associated with the Shighra epicycles essentially corresponded to the periods of the planets revolving around the Sun in a heliocentric system.
- He also demonstrated that these mathematical values were consistent with one another. However, van der Waerden did not claim that Aryabhata understood these orbital periods as belonging to a Sun-centred system or that Aryabhata himself had proposed the heliocentric theory.
- Nevertheless, many later writers ignored this subtle but important distinction and began claiming that Aryabhata had already discovered the heliocentric model. The article describes this claim as a distortion of history.
- Another common historical misconception is the claim that Indians, particularly Bhaskaracharya II, discovered gravitational force before Isaac Newton.
- Ancient Indian thinkers believed that heavy objects made of the earth element (Prithvi), one of the five fundamental elements, possessed a natural property called Gurutva (heaviness).
- According to this belief, objects such as stones thrown upwards return to the Earth because of this natural property.
- However, this idea existed long before Bhaskaracharya II. It was mentioned nearly 2,000 years ago in the Nyaya-Vaisheshika Sutra (5.1.7). Brahmagupta and, later, Bhaskaracharya II also explained similar ideas.
- However, the same sutra states that this property belongs specifically to the earth element and does not apply to elements such as space and fire.
- According to this philosophical understanding, air is not attracted towards the Earth. The property of Gurutva applies only to substances associated with the earth element. This is completely different from Newton's Law of Universal Gravitation.
- Newton's theory describes and mathematically calculates the mutual gravitational attraction between any two masses.
- According to Newton's law, the gravitational force between two objects is:
  - Directly proportional to the product of their masses.
  - Inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them.
- Thus, Newton's theory provides a universal mathematical explanation of gravitational attraction, whereas the ancient idea of Gurutva was a philosophical explanation of heaviness. What Do Students Need to Understand? : The list of such historical misconceptions is quite long. For example, some people claim that the ancient Indian philosopher Sage Kanada discovered modern atomic theory.
- Kanada proposed that all material objects are made up of extremely small particles, which he called Anu.
- Greek philosophers of approximately the same period also presented similar ideas. They called these particles Atomos. However, the ideas proposed by these two groups are not equivalent to the modern atomic theory understood today.
- Both groups developed their ideas mainly through philosophical reasoning rather than scientific experiments.
- They believed that if any material substance were continuously divided into smaller and smaller parts, eventually an extremely small particle would be reached that could no longer be divided. Neither group established the existence or properties of these particles through experimental evidence.
- Therefore, although ancient Indian and Greek thinkers made important intellectual contributions, their philosophical ideas should not be confused with modern scientific theories supported by experimental evidence.
- The article emphasises the importance of understanding scientific history accurately and distinguishing philosophical speculation from experimentally established scientific discoveries.


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