

ITEM NO.301

COURT NO.1

SECTION PIL-W

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s).1089/2025

MOSTARI BANU

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

IA No. 287398/2025 - GRANT OF INTERIM RELIEF

WITH

W.P.(C) No. 126/2026 (PIL-W)

IA No. 32266/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

W.P.(C) No. 129/2026 (PIL-W)

FOR ADMISSION

W.P.(C) No. 737/2025 (PIL-W)

IA No. 27103/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 1908/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 27104/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 303592/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION, IA No. 183939/2025 - STAY APPLICATION

W.P.(C) No. 1074/2025 (PIL-W)

IA No. 26838/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 1884/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 26839/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 303210/2025 - STAY APPLICATION, IA No.284001/2025 - STAY APPLICATION

W.P.(C) No. 1088/2025 (PIL-W)

IA No. 287351/2025 - STAY APPLICATION

W.P.(C) No. 1216/2025 (PIL-W)

IA No. 317082/2025 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION

W.P.(C) No. 159/2026 (PIL-W)

W.P.(C) No. 119/2026 (PIL-W)

IA No. 30760/2026 - EARLY HEARING APPLICATION, IA No. 30759/2026 - GRANT OF INTERIM RELIEF, IA No. 30347/2026 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON

Date : 24-02-2026 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIPUL M. PANCHOLI

For Petitioner(s) :Mr. Kapil Sibal, Sr. Adv.
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Mr. Kamran Khan, Adv.
Mr. Surya Kiran Singh, Adv.
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Mr. Sayan Banerjee, Adv.
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Petitioner-in-person

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Dama Seshadri Naidu, Sr. Adv.
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Mr. Anamika Mishra, Adv.
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Mrs. Pratibha Sinha, Adv.

Mr. Sneh Vardhan, Adv.

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Mr. Shaurya Dasgupta, Adv.

Ms. Shraddha Chirania, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

1. Subsequent to our order dated 20.02.2026, we are in receipt of a self-speaking letter dated 22.02.2026, from Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, highlighting the enormity of the exercise to be undertaken in verification of approximately 50,00,000 cases of 'logical discrepancy/unmapped category'.
2. In order to address the issues raised therein, the matter has been listed today. Learned Senior Counsel, representing the parties, have been briefly apprised and heard.
3. The communication sent by the learned Chief Justice informs that 250 judicial officers of the rank of District Judge (DJ) and Additional District Judge (ADJ) have been assigned the task of verifying and ascertaining approximately 50,00,000 claims and objections of persons included in the 'logical discrepancy/unmapped category'. It is estimated that even in the event that each judicial officer disposes of around 250 cases per day, the entire

exercise would stretch to 80 days. Taking note of this fact and the time constraints, we are of the view that further clarification to increase the catchment area of judicial officers undertaking the subject exercise, streamlining the nature of enquiry and other ancillary matters are required to be further addressed through the following directions:

(i) In addition to the judicial officers already assigned the task, Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court would be entitled to draw officers from the rank of Civil Judge (Senior Division) and Civil Judge (Junior Division) having experience of not less than three years, so that an adequate and reasonable pool is created to undertake the pending verification work on a war footing.

(ii) If the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court is of the opinion that further human resources would be required for completing the process, he is at liberty to approach the learned Chief Justices of the neighbouring States, namely, the High Court of Jharkhand and the Orissa High Court, to provide serving or former judicial officers from those States of similar rank, who shall then also be associated to undertake verification work in the State of West Bengal. In that eventuality, the travel, boarding, honorarium and other incidental expenses of such officers shall be borne by the ECI. The learned Chief Justices of the Jharkhand and Orissa High Courts are requested to sympathetically and urgently consider any request that may be made by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court in this regard.

(iii) For streamlining the nature of work, we clarify that the

verification shall be with reference to the documents referred to in (a) notification dated 27.10.2025 issued by the ECI declaring the commencement of Special Intensive Revision in the State of West Bengal, read with the notification dated 24.06.2025; (b) the order passed by this Court on 08.09.2025 in W.P.(C) No.640/2025 and our other judicial orders passed from time to time, whereby Aadhar Card was allowed to be accepted as proof of identity subject to adequate verification; and (c) the order of this Court dated 19.01.2026 passed in the instant petition, whereby Madhyamik (Class-10) Admit Card and Madhyamik Pass Certificate was also allowed to be submitted. Accordingly, we direct that all such documents, whether electronically updated or submitted physically with necessary proof of their submission on or before the cut-off date of 14.02.2026, only will be considered.

(iv) It shall be the entire responsibility of the ERO/AERO to satisfy the presiding judicial officers of the documents referred to in paragraph 3(iii) above;

(v) The last date of publication of the final electoral roll is 28.02.2026. However, that being said, if the verification exercise undertaken in respect of 'logical discrepancy/unmapped category' remains incomplete as on 28.02.2026, the ECI may publish the final list followed by supplements to the final list. Such supplements shall be published on a continuous basis as soon as the pending exercise is completed in part or in full.

4. We deem it appropriate to invoke our powers under Article 142 of the Constitution of India and declare that the voters enlisted in subsequent supplementary lists shall be deemed to have been part

of the final list published on 28.02.2026.

5. Ordered accordingly.

6. Post the matters on 10.03.2026.

(ARJUN BISHT)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI T.C.)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR