

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 640/2025

ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORMS & ORS.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 217580/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 213175/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 213098/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 186951/2025 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION, IA No. 217367/2025 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION, IA No. 206531/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 221202/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 175432/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 198414/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 192380/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 206403/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 221216/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 205257/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 198464/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 185829/2025 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 179839/2025 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 201763/2025 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 174674/2025 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 207109/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES, IA No. 178417/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES and IA No. 155692/2025 - STAY APPLICATION)

WITH

W.P.(C) No. 637/2025 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 175486/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 155298/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 155300/2025 - GRANT OF INTERIM RELIEF, IA No. 175485/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES, IA No. 157776/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES and IA No. 178754/2025 - STAY APPLICATION)

W.P.(C) No. 636/2025 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 155265/2025 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION, IA No. 216529/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS and IA No. 155262/2025 - STAY APPLICATION)

W.P.(C) No. 638/2025 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 155401/2025 - GRANT OF INTERIM RELIEF)

W.P.(C) No. 630/2025 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 154352/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 156066/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 200989/2025 -

INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 192018/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES, IA No. 178074/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES and IA No. 154351/2025 - STAY APPLICATION)

W.P.(C) No. 631/2025 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 192012/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES, IA No. 155803/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES and IA No. 154421/2025 - STAY APPLICATION)

W.P.(C) No. 642/2025 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 163281/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES, IA No. 164509/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE AMENDED WRIT PETITION and IA No. 156189/2025 - STAY APPLICATION)

W.P.(C) No. 634/2025 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 218693/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 240785/2025 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION and IA No. 233031/2025 - MODIFICATION OF COURT ORDER)

W.P.(C) No. 644/2025 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 156437/2025 - EX-PARTE STAY and IA No. 173783/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES)

W.P.(C) No. 676/2025 (PIL-W)

W.P.(C) No. 645/2025 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 191710/2025 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION, IA No. 251491/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 156498/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING ANNEXTURES and IA No. 156496/2025 - STAY APPLICATION)

W.P.(C) No. 700/2025 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 173858/2025 - STAY APPLICATION)

W.P.(C) No. 646/2025 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 162634/2025 - AMENDMENT OF THE PETITION, IA No. 213214/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 198123/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES, IA No. 159547/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES and IA No. 156574/2025 - STAY APPLICATION)

W.P.(C) No. 674/2025 (PIL-W)

W.P.(C) No. 701/2025 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 215391/2025 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION and IA No. 174074/2025 - STAY APPLICATION)

W.P.(C) No. 719/2025 (PIL-W)

W.P.(C) No. 686/2025 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 170426/2025 - GRANT OF INTERIM RELIEF)

W.P.(C) No. 708/2025 (PIL-W)
(IA No. 175869/2025 - STAY APPLICATION)

W.P.(C) No. 737/2025 (PIL-W)
(IA No. 183939/2025 - STAY APPLICATION)

W.P.(C) No. 855/2025 (PIL-W)
(IA No. 229679/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. and IA No. 229678/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ ANNEXURES)

Date : 09-10-2025 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SURYA KANT
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

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UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

1. Regardless of the outcome of the ongoing proceedings, one of the challenges that has arisen during these proceedings is how to ensure the right to appeal to those approximately 3.66 lakh persons, who are stated to have been excluded from the final voter list. Though the Election Commission of India has taken a categorical stand that each of the excluded person has been served with the orders containing reasons for such exclusion, this fact has been disputed on behalf of the petitioners.

2. Since the time to file an appeal is running short, we deem it appropriate, as an interim measure, to request the Executive Chairman, Bihar State Legal Services Authority, to send a communication, preferably today itself, to all the Secretaries of the District Legal Services Authority, to provide:

- (i) the services of the para-legal volunteers; and
- (ii) free legal aid counsels to enable the excluded persons to file their statutory appeals.

3. The Secretaries of the District Legal Services Authority are directed to immediately re-notify the mobile numbers and full description of the para-legal volunteers in each village, who in turn, will contact the concerned Booth Level Officers, and collect

the information in respect of the persons, who have been excluded from the final voter list. The para-legal volunteers will reach out to such excluded persons, informing them of their right to appeal, and they will also offer the facilities to draft the appeals. That apart, free legal aid counsels shall be provided from the approved panel, so that such appeals are filed within the limitation period. The State Legal Services Authority will collate the information after receiving it and shall submit a status report to this Court within one week.

4. We further deem it appropriate to clarify that the aforesaid directions to the District Legal Services Authorities shall apply *mutatis mutandis* even in the case of those persons whose names were not present in the draft voter list and who filed the form for inclusion of their names but their names have not found a place in the final list released by the Election Commission of India.

5. The question of issuing appropriate directions to appellate authorities for deciding appeals within the timeline and by way of reasoned orders shall be considered on the next dates of hearing.

6. Post these matters for hearing on 16.10.2025.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI T.C.)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR