

IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA

AT HYDERABAD

THE HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE SRI APARESH KUMAR SINGH

AND

THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE G.M.MOHIUDDIN

WRIT PETITION No.20188 of 2026

Dated:30.06.2026

Between:

Syed Qutubuddin Masood

...Petitioner

and

The Election Commission of India,
Represented by the Chief Election Commissioner,
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi – 110001,
and 3 others.

...Respondents

ORDER:

Learned counsel Sri Syed Mounis Jafer Abidi appears for the petitioner.

Learned counsel Sri Mohammed Omer Farooq appears for respondents No.1, 2 and 4.

Sri Raparathi Venkatesh, learned Standing Counsel for Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, appears for respondent No.3.

2. The petitioner has approached this court with a prayer to direct respondent No.1 to implement the procedure for grievance redressal regarding wrongful deletion of names from the electoral roll and for restoration of such names along with their original EPIC (Voter ID) numbers and electoral records.

3. The petitioner contends that his name was included in the last Special Intensive Revision (SIR) conducted in the year 2002 for Assembly Constituency No.218, Charminar. However, the electoral roll reflected errors in certain particulars. The very purpose of SIR was to ensure accurate and error-free electoral rolls which the respondents failed to rectify. For rectification of those mistakes, the petitioner and his family members submitted notice to the Electoral Registration Officer, Bahadurpura, and the Booth Level Officer (BLO), Part No.56 on 12.05.2024 through e-mail and speed post with acknowledgement due requesting them to furnish reasons and grounds for deletion of their names from the electoral rolls, the other particulars about the name and designation of the officer responsible, whether any field-level enquiry was conducted prior to deletion of their names from the electoral rolls and the method adopted for such deletion and the copies of notices, enquiry notes etc. The petitioner has not received any response.

Therefore, again he had submitted a representation on 14.11.2025 to respondents No.1 and 2 through e-mail. He again submitted a representation before respondents No.1 to 3 on 01.04.2026 bringing to their notice that his name and the names of his family members were reflected in the SIR 2002 records and raising concerns regarding deletion of their names from the current electoral rolls, particularly in view of the proposed SIR scheduled to be conducted in the State of Telangana. However, till date, no response has been received from respondent No.3 to whom his representation was forwarded by respondent No.2. He has been advised to submit Form-6 which is intended for enrolment of new voters who have attained the age of 18 years and are registering as first time voters. The other prescribed forms are meant for different purposes.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner has also referred to the press note dated 14.05.2026 announcing the schedule for SIR – Phase III to be conducted in phased manner in 16 States and 3 Union Territories, including the State of Telangana. He also points out that house-to-house visits by the BLOs are scheduled to be conducted from 25.06.2026 to 24.07.2026 and the draft electoral roll is proposed to be published on 31.07.2026. The period for filing claims and objections is scheduled

from 31.07.2026 to 30.08.2026. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that in the absence of restoration of the name of the petitioner and his family members in the current electoral rolls, proper identification and mapping of records during SIR – 2026 process may not be possible which may adversely affect their inclusion in the revised electoral rolls, thereby they would be deprived of their valuable statutory and constitutional rights attached to voter registration and participation in the electoral process causing serious prejudice. Learned counsel for the petitioner has referred to Section 22 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (hereinafter referred to as, “the Act”), which provides for correction of entries in electoral rolls. However, according to him, the procedure prescribed under Rule 21A of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, was not followed before deletion of the name of the petitioner and his family members. Therefore, the petitioner has invoked the jurisdiction of this court under Article 226 of the Constitution of India as he has no other efficacious or alternative remedy. The petitioner has sought action upon his representation dated 14.11.2025 for restoration of his name and the names of his family members.

5. Learned counsel for Election Commission of India, representing respondents No.1, 2 and 4, submits that the grievance of the petitioner is redressable in the SIR now underway pursuant to the directions of the Election Commission of India contained in the letter dated 14.05.2026 addressed to the Chief Electoral Officers of the concerned States, including the State of Telangana. He further points out that Annexure-I to this letter is the letter dated 24.06.2025 relating to SIR addressed to the Chief Electoral Officer, Bihar, Patna, which forms the yardstick for the present SIR conducted in the respective States under instructions dated 14.05.2026. Since the last intensive revision in Bihar was done in 2003 with 01.01.2003 as qualifying date, and the eligibility of electors enrolled in the Electoral Rolls after the last intensive revision was established then, now the electors like the petitioner are required to participate in the SIR during which the BLOs would be conducting house-to-house enumeration. The SIR process relates to both inclusion of the electors and deletion of un-qualified electors from the electoral rolls. For those who have become eligible to be included in the electoral rolls upon attaining majority or for any other reason, they will have to also submit the enumeration form along with supporting documents. After the said process, a draft roll would be published. The instructions also provide that in case any electors are unable to submit their filled-in

enumeration forms within the specified time, they may file Form-6 along with the prescribed Declaration Form for inclusion during the claims and objections period. The process involves a specified period for inviting claims and objections under paragraph 5 of the instructions. Thereafter, the display of the list of claims and objections and the provision for appeal and second appeal under Section 24(a) and 24(b) of the Act are prescribed. It is submitted that in this light, the petitioner has a remedy to redress his grievances. Therefore, this court may not exercise its writ jurisdiction to interfere in the matter when a SIR is conducted by the Election Commission of India to ensure that no eligible citizen is left out from the electoral rolls.

6. We have heard learned counsel for the parties. We have also taken note of the materials placed and the grievance raised by the petitioner on non-consideration of his representation on deletion of his name and the names of his family members. We have also taken into note the written instructions furnished by the learned counsel for the Election Commission of India.

7. From the facts narrated above, it is clear that the petitioner has approached this court in the present writ petition after two years of the alleged deletion of his name and the names of his family members from

the electoral rolls when his representations made from time to time have not been acted upon. However, it is also evident that at this stage, the Election Commission of India has itself initiated the SIR to ensure that no eligible voter is left out of the electoral rolls. The qualifying date as per the instructions dated 14.05.2026 would be 01.01.2003 for those existing electors. For those who have become eligible thereafter also, the exercise contemplates submission of enumeration form to BLOs during house-to-house enumeration exercise. The period for such enumeration exercise is from 25.06.2026 to 24.07.2026. The SIR process includes publication of draft rolls after house-to-house enumeration, submission of claims and objections and a time period for submission of claims and objections which would also get displayed. The SIR also provides for appeal and second appeal to the competent authority under Section 24(a) and 24(b) of the Act. Therefore, since the SIR process has been initiated by the Election Commission of India in exercise of its powers under Article 324 of the Constitution of India read with the relevant provisions of the Act which provides for not only the forum, but also the procedure for correction of the electoral rolls in cases of electors whose names have either got deleted or have become eligible to be included in the electoral rolls, this court should refrain from exercising its writ jurisdiction in the matter. Therefore, the petitioner is

at liberty to participate in the process of SIR in respect of his grievances relating to deletion of his name and the names of his family members from the electoral rolls earlier. This court, therefore, is not inclined to interfere in the instant writ petition.

8. The writ petition is accordingly dismissed. There shall be no order as to costs.

Miscellaneous applications pending, if any, shall stand closed.

APARESH KUMAR SINGH, CJ

G.M.MOHIUDDIN, J

30.06.2026

vs