



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Supreme Court Order on Bengal's Deleted Voters: What It Means

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Background:

Before the 2026 West Bengal Assembly Elections, the Election Commission carried out a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls.

Its centralised software flagged around 60 lakh voters for “logical discrepancies” in their submitted documents. Around 700 judicial officers were deployed to check these cases. They declared nearly 27.10 lakh voters ineligible, and their names were deleted from the electoral rolls.

The Problem:

Under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, once the last date for filing nominations is over, the voter list gets frozen until election results are declared.

This meant deleted voters could not be added back before polling on 23 April and 29 April 2026, even if their cases were genuine.

What the Supreme Court Ordered?

Using its special power under Article 142 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court allowed voters whose names are restored by appellate tribunals to vote in the election.

The Court directed:

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Creation of 19 Appellate Tribunals headed by retired High Court judges

If a voter is cleared by the tribunal, their name will be added through a supplementary voter list

For Phase 1 polling (23 April) ? list by 21 April

For Phase 2 polling (29 April) ? list by 27 April

Important Clarification:

Only those voters whose deletion is reversed by the tribunal can vote.

People whose names are still under challenge or whose appeals are pending will not be allowed to vote.

How Appeals Can Be Filed?

Affected voters can file appeals:

Online through the ECINET portal

Offline at District Magistrate (DM), Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), or Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) offices

Why This Matters?

The order gives lakhs of deleted voters a final chance to restore their voting rights before polling.

At the same time, it highlights a major debate over voter verification, electoral fairness, and possible disenfranchisement in West Bengal.

This issue has become one of the biggest legal and political controversies before the 2026 Assembly elections.