



# भारतीय विधिज्ञ परिषद् BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

(Statutory Body Constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961)

21, Rouse Avenue Institutional Area, Near Bal Bhawan, New Delhi - 110002

**BCID:1474:2025**

**Date: 20.02.2025**

**The Secretary  
Karnataka State Bar Council  
Old Election Commission Building  
Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi  
Bengaluru - 560 001  
Email: [kar\\_barcouncil@yahoo.com](mailto:kar_barcouncil@yahoo.com)**

**Sub.: Nomination of Mr. Mittalakod Shidlingappa Shekharappa as Chairman of Karnataka State Bar Council in place of Mr. Vishalaraghu H. L.**

Sir,

The Bar Council of India, in exercise of its powers under Section 48B of the Advocates Act, 1961, as well as its authority under Section 7(1)(g) and Section 7(1)(m), and in strict adherence to Rule 32 of the Bar Council of India Certificate and Place of Practice (Verification) Rules, 2015, has resolved to nominate Mr. Mittalakod Shidlingappa Shekharappa as the new Chairman of the Karnataka State Bar Council, replacing Mr. Vishalaraghu H. L. This decision is necessitated by the communication of Mr. Vishalaraghu to quit the post of Chairman and his request to nominate some other member as Chairman and also due to the expiration of the five year term of the elected members of the Karnataka State Bar Council on 5th November 2023 and the subsequent expiration of their extended tenure under Section 8 of the Advocates Act, 1961, on 4th May 2024.

Rule 32 clearly mandates that in cases where the term of elected members of any State Bar Council expires due to delays in the identification of non practicing advocates or verification of their certificates, the Bar Council of India may extend their tenure solely for the purpose of completing the verification process. The Karnataka State Bar Council has till now failed to complete the verification process within the extended period as required under Rule 32 and that is the reason of nomination of another member as Chairman. This failure has created a regulatory vacuum and raises concerns regarding compliance with the provisions of the Advocates Act and the rules framed thereunder.

Despite clear directives from the Bar Council of India to refrain from conducting elections until the verification process is completed, the Karnataka State Bar Council issued a notice on 31st May 2024, scheduling




elections for the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman on 23rd June 2024. This action was in direct contravention of Rule 32 and the resolution of the Bar Council of India dated 17th October 2023, which extended the tenure of State Bar Councils solely for verification purposes. The willful disregard of these instructions amounted to non compliance with the regulatory framework governing the legal profession. The BCI thereafter, issued letter dated 11.06.2024 bearing nos. BCID/3052/2024 addressed to Karnataka State Bar Council, staying such elections, on account of reasons of verification process for elections not being completed under Rule 32 which was necessary to ensure proper and effective elections with a valid electoral roll.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court has underscored the necessity of verification of advocates credentials to maintain the integrity of the legal profession. Under Mr. Vishalaraghu H. L.'s Chairmanship, the Karnataka State Bar Council could not complete the verification process, causing significant delays and inefficiencies. Given the expiration of the extended tenure and the failure to comply with Rule 32, a leadership change is necessary to ensure strict adherence to the directives of the Bar Council of India and the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

In light of these developments, and in accordance with Rule 32, the Bar Council of India exercises its supervisory authority to nominate a new Chairman to oversee the completion of the verification process. Mr. Mittalakod Shidlingappa Shekharappa is hereby nominated as the Chairman of the Karnataka State Bar Council with immediate effect. His primary responsibility will be to ensure the expeditious completion of the verification process and compliance with all regulatory mandates.

The Karnataka State Bar Council is directed to fully cooperate in the verification process as mandated under Rule 32 and to refrain from any election related activities until explicit approval is granted by the Bar Council of India. A detailed report on the progress of the verification process, along with an explanation for the delay, must be submitted immediately. Failure to comply with these directives may result in further disciplinary action, including the dissolution of the Karnataka State Bar Council and the formation of a Special Committee under Section 8A of the Advocates Act, 1961.

This decision is taken in the best interest of the legal profession and in strict adherence to Rule 32 and the regulatory framework governing State Bar Councils. The Bar Council of India will continue to monitor the situation closely and take appropriate actions as required to uphold the rule of law.

  
**Srimanto Sen**  
**Principal Secretary**  
**Bar Council of India**