



# 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

BCI:D:7115/2025

Date: 10.10.2025

To,

The Secretary  
Bar Council of Delhi  
2/6, Siri Fort Institutional Area,  
Khel Gaon Marg, New Delhi-110049

**Sub.: Constitution of Special Committee under Section 8A of the Advocates Act for the State Bar Council of Delhi and cessation of the functioning of the present Council.**

Sir,

The Bar Council of India had earlier considered the request of the Bar Council of Delhi for additional time to conduct elections. By letter No.BCI:D:3375/2023 dated 20.06.2023, the tenure of members of the Bar Council of Delhi stood extended under Section-8 of the Advocates Act with effect from 28.06.2023 for a period of six months. That extension was granted in view of difficulties narrated by the Bar Council of Delhi including disruption during the pandemic and other unavoidable circumstances. The clear expectation was that elections would be held within the extended window.

Subsequent allowances were made under the Bar Council of India Rules including continuance under Rule 32 to avoid a vacuum and to enable completion of verification and preparation of an accurate electoral roll. On 08.07.2025 guidance was issued that day to day functioning could continue while verification was expedited. These steps were temporary and intended only to secure timely and lawful elections.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court by order dated 10.04.2023 in Writ Petition Civil No.82 of 2023 mandated rigorous verification of genuineness and validity of degrees and certificates of advocates. On 25.05.2025 the High Powered Verification Committee of the Bar Council of India held a virtual personal interaction with Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Secretaries of State Bar Councils. The office bearers of the State Bar Council of Delhi were urged to accelerate verification and to remove discrepancies. Despite this interaction there has not been the required improvement in pace or accuracy.

By communications dated 05.11.2024 and 05.03.2025 the Bar Council of India pointed out material mismatches in figures supplied by the State Bar Council of Delhi and called for rectified data together with copies of correspondence with universities and boards. Repeated reminders were issued. The shortfall in verified advocates continues and datasets remain either inconsistent or incomplete.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court by order dated 24.09.2025 in Writ Petition Civil No 1319 of 2023 directed that elections to all State Bar Councils be completed by 31.01.2026 and required a status report. On 07.10.2025 vide communication/letter BCI:D:7077/2025 (HPC) as per standing directions of High Powered Verification Committee, BCI sought correct and up to date verification data for May 2025 to 30.09.2025 to be furnished by 5 PM on 15.10.2025 and further updated data for 01.10.2025 to 20.10.2025 was required by 22.10.2025. Compliance with these dates is essential for an accurate electoral roll and for filing the status report due on 31.10.2025.

On 08.10.2025 the General Council constituted an Election Committee for Delhi to accelerate verification and roll preparation and issued directions for continuity of verification and timely data submission. Within the immediate review window it became evident that these directions were not being implemented in letter and spirit. The constitution of the Election Committee did not translate into measurable progress or operational control needed to meet the court fixed timeline. In these circumstances and to prevent further slippage the Bar Council of India is constrained to invoke Section 8A to ensure neutral effective and time bound stewardship of verification and elections.

Section 8A of the Advocates Act empowers the Bar Council of India to constitute a Special Committee when a State Bar Council fails to perform its functions or when elections are not held in time. In view of the chronology of extensions since 28.06.2023, the continued discrepancies in verification, the repeated non compliance with data directives and the outer limit of 31.01.2026 immediate intervention is required to protect the electorate and to ensure neutrality, transparency and expedition.

Accordingly and as per direction and order of competent authority, it is decided as follows

- A. The State Bar Council of Delhi ceases to function with immediate effect. All elected members and office bearers stand relieved. All committees of the State Bar Council of Delhi stand dissolved.
- B. The Election Committee indicated on 08.10.2025 stands withdrawn to avoid overlap. All responsibilities for verification preparation of electoral rolls, scheduling conduct of polling counting and declaration will vest in the Special Committee constituted herein together with the Returning Officer and the Observer to be appointed by the Bar Council of India under the Rules.
- C. A Special Committee for the State Bar Council of Delhi is constituted under Section 8A of the Advocates Act. The Committee shall consist of the following members: -
  - i. Mr. Chetan Sharma, Additional Solicitor General of India (Chairman)  
Email ID: chetansharmamailbox@yahoo.co.in  
Mobile No.+91-9810010757  
Address: 16, Teen Murti Lane, New Delhi-110011

- ii. Mr. Maninder Singh, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India (Member)  
Email ID: ms@singhmaninder.com  
Mobile: as per records on file  
Address: F-11, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi-110014
  - iii. Mr. Neeraj, Advocate, President, Central Delhi Court Bar Association (Member)  
Office Rouse Avenue Court Complex, DDU Marg, New Delhi-110002
- D. The Special Committee shall exercise all powers and perform all functions of the State Bar Council of Delhi. It shall have charge of funds, staff and records. It shall oversee verification and preparation of the electoral roll and shall conduct the election within the timeframe fixed by the Hon'ble Court. A Returning Officer and an Observer will be nominated by the Bar Council of India in accordance with the Rules and will work with the Special Committee.
- E. The Special Committee shall continue and complete the verification and declaration exercise under the Bar Council of India Certificate and Place of Practice Verification Rules 2015. It shall place on record a rectified and up to date dataset for the period May 2025 to 30.09.2025 by 5 PM on 15.10.2025 in the format specified in BCI:D. 7077/2025 (HPC) dated 07.10.2025. It shall furnish further updated verification data for 01.10.2025 to 20.10.2025 or the latest available by that date by 22.10.2025. Soft copies shall be sent by email in one PDF and one Word file using the subject lines indicated in that communication. Hard copies are not required at this stage.
- F. The Special Committee shall submit a short status report on verification and roll preparation by 25.10.2025 so that the consolidated report due on 31.10.2025 can be placed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
- G. The Special Committee shall publish a draft electoral roll based on verified data and objections received up to and including 31.10.2025 and shall finalize the roll for notification of the election schedule. Polling counting and declaration shall be completed on or before 31.01.2026.
- H. The present staff shall continue and shall function under the administrative control of the Special Committee. No appointment transfer or termination shall be made without prior written approval of the Special Committee.
- I. All ongoing proceedings including disciplinary matters, welfare measures and grievance redressal shall continue without interruption under the supervision of the Special Committee.

These directions are intended to restore compliance with binding judicial orders to secure accurate verification and to ensure that the electorate of Delhi is represented by a lawfully elected Council by 31.01.2026 on the basis of a verified and reliable roll. The measure is curative and time bound and is taken after successive extensions and advisories since 28.06.2023 have not produced the necessary results.

Please treat this communication as operative with immediate effect and extend full cooperation to the Special Committee. Any obstruction or non-compliance will be viewed seriously and may invite further action as permissible in law.

  
(Srimanto Sen)  
Principal Secretary  
Bar Council of India

Copy to

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