



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: 2942 /2026

Date:14.05.2026

To,

The Secretary,
State Bar Council of West Bengal
2 & 3, K.S. Roy Road,
City Civil Court Building, 7th Floor,
Kolkata - 700001
Email: westbengalbarcouncil@gmail.com

Sub: Direction to furnish information regarding enrolment and practice status of Ms. Mamata Banerjee, former Chief Minister of West Bengal

Sir,

It has been brought to the notice of the Bar Council of India, through various media reports, that Ms. Mamata Banerjee, former Chief Minister of West Bengal, appeared today before the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta wearing advocate's robes / legal attire, including white bands.

The Bar Council of India Rules lay down, inter alia, the standards of professional conduct and etiquette applicable to advocates. Further, Part VI, Chapter IV of the Bar Council of India Rules, titled "Form of Dresses or Robes to be Worn by Advocates", provides for the dress to be worn by advocates appearing before the Supreme Court, High Courts, subordinate courts, tribunals or authorities, including the wearing of bands and advocates' gowns in the manner prescribed.

Ms. Mamata Banerjee served as Chief Minister of West Bengal from 2011 to 2026. Having regard to the constitutional public office held by her during the said period, and without expressing any opinion at this stage on the permissibility or otherwise of such appearance, the Bar Council of India requires the factual status of her enrolment, practice, suspension, if any, and resumption, if any, to be verified from your records.

You are, therefore, directed to furnish the following information in respect of Ms. Mamata Banerjee within a period of two days i.e. before 16th May 2026.

- i. Her enrolment number, if enrolled with the State Bar Council of West Bengal.
- ii. The date of her enrolment with the State Bar Council of West Bengal.
- iii. Whether her name presently continues on the State Roll of Advocates maintained by the State Bar Council of West Bengal.
- iv. Whether she had, at any point during her tenure as Chief Minister of West Bengal, given any intimation of voluntary suspension / suspension of practice / cessation from practice.

- v. If any such intimation was given, the date on which it was received by the State Bar Council, along with a copy of the relevant application / intimation and order / noting, if any.
- vi. Whether any application / intimation for resumption of practice was submitted by her thereafter.
- vii. If so, the date of such application / intimation for resumption of practice, and whether the same was accepted / taken on record by the State Bar Council.
- viii. Whether any Certificate of Practice / relevant practice-status record in her favour is available with the State Bar Council, and whether the same is presently valid, active, suspended, or otherwise.
- ix. Whether any other record, intimation, communication, order, or entry exists in relation to her entitlement to practise during or after her tenure as Chief Minister.

You are further directed to ensure that the information furnished is based strictly on contemporaneous official records maintained by the State Bar Council of West Bengal, including the State Roll, enrolment register, Certificate of Practice records, inward / receipt registers, suspension or cessation of practice records, resumption records, and any related file notings or orders. Certified copies of all such records be supplied, duly authenticated by the Secretary of the State Bar Council, with page numbers, register references, dates of entries, inward diary numbers, if any, and the present custody details of the original records.

The above information be supplied along with certified copies of all supporting documents / extracts from the State Roll, enrolment register, suspension / cessation / resumption records, Certificate of Practice records, inward registers, correspondence files, file notings and any other relevant order or record available with the State Bar Council.

The Secretary shall also certify that the copies furnished are true copies of the original records maintained in the ordinary course of official business and that the original records have been preserved and kept available for inspection, if so required.

Pending submission of the reply, the concerned original records shall be preserved in their present form and no alteration, correction, overwriting, interpolation or reconstruction of any record relating to the above subject may be undertaken except in accordance with law and after due intimation to the Bar Council of India.

You are directed to submit your reply within two days from the receipt of this letter.

Kindly treat the matter as urgent.


Srimanto Sen
Principal Secretary
Bar Council of India