

BEFORE THE HIGH-POWERED ELECTION SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

comprising of

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia,
Former Judge, Supreme Court of India
Chairperson, High-Powered Election Supervisory Committee**

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ravi Shankar Jha,
Former Chief Justice, Punjab & Haryana High Court
Member, High-Powered Election Supervisory Committee**

**Mr. V. Giri,
Learned Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India
Member, High-Powered Election Supervisory Committee
Supervisory Committee Appeal No. 75/2026**

ORDER DATED 06.04.2026

- 1.** The appellant, Santosh Kumar Jain, is aggrieved by the final list of candidates published for the elections to the Bar Council of Rajasthan to the extent it shows the advocates into two categories, A. Senior Advocates and B. Advocates. According to the appellant, the ballot papers would also have the same categorisation, which is contrary to the past practices followed in earlier elections to the Bar Council.
- 2.** We have heard the appellant. Mr. Vikas Dhaka, Secretary, Bar Council of Rajasthan and Mr. Awanish Pandey, Additional Secretary, Bar Council of India, also joined the proceedings on our request.
- 3.** Although there may not be any rule prohibiting such categorisation, but as per the established practice, the names of

candidates are printed on the ballot papers in the sequence of their enrolment. Mr. Awanish Pandey, Additional Secretary, Bar Council of India, states before this Supervisory Committee that, as per the past accepted practice, names on the ballot papers have always been printed as per the date of the enrolment of the contesting candidates.

4. Further, when we enquired from Mr. Vikas Dhaka as to the stage of the elections in the Bar Council of Rajasthan, he said that polling is scheduled for 22.04.2026. However, since the final list of candidates has been published on 02.04.2026, Mr. Vikas Dhaka also states that ballot papers have been given for printing, but have not been printed as yet.
5. Considering the facts of the case, the Supervisory Committee is of the view that the names of the candidates on the ballot papers shall be printed as per the established past practices, i.e. in sequence to the date of enrolment; seniormost first and so on. It is hereby directed that names of candidates on the ballot papers shall be printed in the sequence of their enrolment without any categorisation of Senior Advocates and Advocates. Let the same be done at the earliest.
6. Before parting, we would like to note that we have just been informed that similar categorisation took place in elections to the Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana; however, since that issue never came before this Supervisory Committee and elections to the Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana are already over, we do not wish to say anything about it.
7. Further, the Bar Council of India is directed to communicate this order to all the High-Powered Election Committees and the State Bar Councils, so that this anomaly may not be repeated.

8. With the above observations, the present appeal stands disposed of.


Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia

Former Judge, Supreme Court of India
Chairperson, Supervisory Committee

Justice Ravi Shankar Jha
Former Chief Justice, Punjab & Haryana High Court
Member, Supervisory Committee

06.04.2026
New Delhi

Mr. V. Giri
Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India
Member, Supervisory Committee