

ITEM NO.301

COURT NO.1

SECTION XIV-A

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATION..... Diary No(s).13992/2023

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 20-07-2012 in C.A. No.3401/2003 20-07-2012 in C.A. No.3402/2003 passed by the Supreme Court of India]

SUPREME COURT BAR ASSOCIATION

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

B.D. KAUSHIK & ANR.

Respondent (s)

IA No. 82106/2023 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION
IA No. 135534/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 116222/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 128032/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 67733/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 127350/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 67159/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 110943/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 94919/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 269586/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 100486/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 69113/2023 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION
IA No. 127352/2025 - EX-PARTE STAY
IA No. 69115/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING PAPER BOOKS
IA No. 89325/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
IA No. 114762/2024 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
IA No. 67662/2024 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
IA No. 127075/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
IA No. 322549/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
IA No. 100362/2026 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT
IA No. 128028/2025 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT
IA No. 82489/2026 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT
IA No. 66240/2026 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT
IA No. 113969/2026 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT
IA No. 55359/2024 - MODIFICATION OF COURT ORDER
IA No. 114777/2024 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON
IA No. 67665/2024 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON
IA No. 82492/2026 - PERMISSION TO FILE APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION

WITH

Diary No(s). 17011/2024 (XIV-A)
IA No. 90603/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS

MA No.338-339/2025 in C.A. No. 3401/2003 (XIV-A)
IA No. 40738/2025 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION
IA No. 40741/2025 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION
IA No. 40732/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 40739/2025 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT
IA No. 45626/2025 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON

Diary No(s). 29211/2025 (XIV-A)
IA No. 136110/2025 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION

Diary No(s). 29297/2025 (XIV-A)
IA No. 135085/2025 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION
IA No. 135090/2025 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION
IA No. 135082/2025 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION
IA No. 135087/2025 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT
IA No. 135093/2025 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON

Diary No(s). 29483/2025 (XIV-A)
IA No. 135707/2025 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION
IA No. 135704/2025 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION
IA No. 135715/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 135710/2025 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT

Diary No(s). 29968/2025 (XIV-A)
IA No. 137368/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS

Date : 27-04-2026 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K.V. VISWANATHAN

For Petitioner(s) :Mr. Vikas Singh, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Rahul Kaushik, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Pragya Baghel, Adv.
Mr. Meenesh Dubey, Adv.
Mr. Vikrant Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Susheel Tomar, Adv.
Ms. Aparna Bhatt, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Dinesh Kumar Goswami, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Anand Sanjay M Nulli, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Anandita Pujari, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Ashok Panigrahi, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Monika Gusain, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Kumar Gaurav, Adv.
Mr. Mukesh Kumar Singh, Adv.
Mr. Manish Mohan, Adv.
Mr. Ashish Kumar Sinha, Adv.
Mr. Upendra Mishra, Adv.

Mr. Rohit Vats, Adv.
Ms. Samta Pushkarna Mishra, Adv.
Ms. Smriti Kumari, Adv.
Ms. Rachana Gandhi, Adv.
Mr. Shashank Shekhar, AOR

Petitioner-in-person
Mr. Akshat Shrivastava, AOR
Mr. Kuldeep Jauhari, AOR
Intervenor-in-person
Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal, AOR

Ms. Kumud Lata Das, Adv.
Ms. Sadhana Sandhu, AOR
Mr. Arjun Sain, Adv.
Ms. Josmine, Adv.
Ms. Pooja Rathore, Adv.
Mr. Nikhil Kumar Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Nitin Saluja, AOR

Ms. Kumud Lata Das, AOR
Mr. I.S. Minhas, Adv.
Ms. Rubina Jawed, Adv.
Mr. Harsh Ajay Singh, Adv.
Ms. Pooja Rathore, Adv.
Mr. Siddhant Narayan Das, Adv.

Mr. Parmanand Pandey, AOR
Mr. Utkarsh Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Arun Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Vishal Tiwari, Adv.
Mr. Praveen Choudhary, Adv.
Mr. Rahul Rathee, Adv.
Mr. Utkarsh Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Kartikay Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Milind Kumar, AOR
Mr. Shivaji M. Jadhav, AOR

Mr. K.M. Nataraj, A.S.G.
Mr. Shailesh Madiyal, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, AOR
Mr. Devansh Bharukha, Adv.
Mr. Raman Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Prasenjeet Mohapatra, Adv.
Mr. Anuj Udupa, Adv.

Mr. Pradeep Kumar Yadav, Adv.
Ms. Anjale Kumari, Adv.
Mr. Sanjeev Malhotra, AOR

Mr. Surendra Gautam, Adv.
Mr. Geeta Jain Aggarwal, Adv.
Mr. Ram Narayan Mohanty, Adv.
Mr. Raghvendra Shukla, Adv.
Ms. T. Geeta, Adv.
Mr. Rajendra Singh Chauhan, Adv.

Mr. Pawan Kumar Saxena, Adv.
Mr. Pritam Singh, Adv.
Mr. Umesh Kumar Shukla, Adv.
Mr. Dhruva Shankar Mishra, AOR

Mr. Anil Hooda, Adv.
Mr. Sushant Mihra, Adv.
Mr. Satindra Singh Baghel, Adv.
Mr. Varun Mishra, Adv.

Mr. Vijay Hansaria, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Sneha Kalita, AOR
Ms. Nandini Rai, Adv.
Mr. Aashay Shukla, Adv.

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Gaurav Bhatia, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Dinesh Kumar Garg, AOR

Ms. Shobha Gupta, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Yogamaya M.G, Adv.
Mr. Deepak Prakash, AOR
Ms. Komal, Adv.
Ms. Jyoti P. Deborah, Adv.

Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, AOR
Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Aggarwal, Adv.
Mr. Rahul Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Dharma Datta Verma, Adv.
Mr. Mohit Kumar Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Sunil Kumar Srivastava, Adv.
Mr. Gaurav Yadav, Adv.
Mrs. Neeta, Adv.
Mr. Dheeraj Raghav, Adv.

Mr. Manmohan Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Vikrant Rana, Adv.
Mr. Satish Pandey, AOR
Mr. Akbar Ali, Adv.
Mr. Faheem Ahmed, Adv.
Ms. Sadiya Shakeel, Adv.

Ms. Sangeeta Singh, AOR
Ms. Vandana Misra, Adv.

Mr. Vikas Singh, Sr. Adv.

Ms. Deepieka Kalia, Adv.
Mr. Nitin Saluja, AOR

Mr. Pravir Choudhary, AOR
Mrs. Geeta Jain Aggarwal, Adv.
Mrs. Nasima, Adv.
Ms. Ruhi Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Tejasvi Goel, Adv.
Ms. Himanshi Bagri, Adv.

Mr. Rajesh Singh, AOR
Mr. Hitesh Kumar Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Amit Kumar Chawla, Adv.
Mr. Akhileshwar Jha, Adv.
Mr. Mahi Pal Singh, Adv.
Ms. Shreya Jha, Adv.
Ms. Ishtha Singh, Adv.
Ms. Priyanka, Adv.
Ms. Swati Vishan, Adv.
Mr. Javed Raza, Adv.
Mr. Anupam Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Devendra Kumar Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Sudhakar Dwivedi, Adv.

Ms. Charu Mathur, AOR

Mr. Manoj K. Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Amrendra Kumar Singh, Adv.
Mr. Umesh Dubey, Adv.
Mr. Mohammad Aslam, Adv.
Mr. Saurabh Kushwaha, Adv.
Mr. Rahul Kumar Singh, Adv.
Mr. Rishesh Sikarwar, Adv.
Mr. Chandan Kumar Singh, Adv.
Mr. Vijay Pal, Adv.
Mr. Rakesh Dubey, Adv.
Mr. Karmendra Pratap Singh, Adv.
Mr. Satish Solanki, Adv.
Mr. Varun Mishra, Adv.

Mr. Aabhas Parimal, Adv.

Mr. Aviral Saxena, AOR
Mr. Vikas Jain, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

1. In continuation of orders dated 06.02.2026 and 09.03.2026, Dr. Mukut Nath Verma, Advocate, has filed a revised affidavit of

unconditional apology and undertaking. Paragraph Nos. 4, 5, 7 and 8 of the aforesaid affidavit are to the following effect:

"4. That I most respectfully and unconditionally tender my sincere and unequivocal apology to this Hon'ble Court for any act, omission, conduct, or statement attributable to me which may have been construed as contemptuous, inappropriate, or unbecoming of an Advocate.

5. That I also hereby unconditionally tender my sincere apology to all the members of the Election Committee constituted by this Hon'ble Court for conducting the Supreme Court Bar Association elections, for any statement, allegation, conduct, or communication made by me which may have caused inconvenience, embarrassment, or lowered their dignity in any manner.

6. xxx xxx xxx

7. That I express my deep remorse and undertake that I shall maintain the highest standards of professional conduct expected from a member of the Bar.

8. That I hereby give a categorical and binding undertaking to this Hon'ble Court that:

- I shall not make any allegations, statements, or communications against the Election Committee or any authority constituted by this Hon'ble Court;*
- I shall refrain from any conduct that may be perceived as contemptuous or derogatory to this Hon'ble Court or its processes;*
- I shall strictly abide by all orders and directions passed by this Hon'ble Court in letter and spirit;*
- I shall conduct myself in a manner befitting an Advocate and uphold the dignity of the legal profession at all times."*

2. In view of the unconditional apology tendered by Dr. Mukut Nath Verma to this Court as well as to the members of the Election Committee, coupled with the undertaking given by him through paragraph 8 of the affidavit, the interim bail granted to him vide order dated 09.03.2026 is made absolute for a period of six months.

The conduct of Dr. Mukut Nath Verma will be assessed afresh after a period of six months. For that limited purpose, the matter is ordered to be listed on 26.10.2026.

3. With a view to bring reforms in the election process of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), this Court, for the first time, stepped in on the judicial side through a judgment dated 26.09.2011 rendered in C.A. Nos.3401-3402/2003 (*SCBA and others vs. B.D. Kaushik*). Thereafter, endeavours have been made from time to time to incorporate further reforms. That was especially necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has brought dynamic changes in the legal profession in the form of introduction of 'virtual hearings' by this Court, the High Courts, and various other Courts, and thereby enabling permitting the members of the Bar to appear and argue online. Even after the pandemic, technological infusion through an online platform for the members of the Bar has been further strengthened.

4. Today, the Indian judiciary feels proud of the fact that a large number of members of the SCBA and the High Courts, on a pan-India basis, prefer to appear online before this Court and other Courts.

5. The online appearances also led to some other challenges regarding the physical appearance and/or actual assistance to the Court by members of the Bar, specifically in the context of advocates seeking eligibility to vote and/or contest the elections of the SCBA. Such like challenges have led to filing of various MAs/IAs in C.A. No.3401-3402/2003. Various orders, in respect of such prayers, have been passed from time to time.

6. This Court, *vide* order dated 24.02.2025, eventually decided to constitute a Committee to recommend norms, guidelines, and parameters for the reformation and suitable amendments in the Bye-laws regulating the election of the Executive Committee to the SCBA. Hon'ble Mr. Justice L. Nageswara Rao, a former Judge of this Court, graciously accepted the responsibility to lead the said Committee, and he was provided assistance by some other members of the Committee.

7. After Justice L. Nageswara Rao's Committee conveyed its recommendations, they were, pursuant to the orders passed by this Court, displayed on the website of the SCBA. The purpose thereof was to inform the members of the Bar regarding the proposed reforms, as also to invite their invaluable suggestions.

8. It is a matter of record that pursuant to such publication, some of the members of the Bar have submitted their own suggestions. Even the Election Committee, which was constituted by this Court to conduct the SCBA elections in the year 2025, has made its independent recommendations. The SCBA has collated all the recommendations, including those made by Justice L. Nageswara Rao's Committee, in a comparative chart.

9. While those suggestions/recommendations will be examined by us separately and a comprehensive order to that effect shall be passed subsequently, we deem it appropriate to issue the following interim directions at this stage:

- (i) It is a matter of record that election of the Office Bearers and Executive Members of the SCBA in the year

2025 was disputed through some petitions/applications. As a result of our order directing a recount of votes, the results were finally declared on 19.07.2025. The elected members assumed office a few days thereafter. Pursuantly, we see no reason to curtail the term of the elected members/office bearers;

- (ii) The voter list shall be finalised as on 29.05.2026. All those voters who are eligible as on 29.05.2026 shall be entitled to be included in the voter list for the upcoming elections;
- (iii) The Executive Committee of the SCBA shall notify the Election Committee on or before 29.05.2026;
- (iv) The Election Committee shall notify the election schedule on 13.07.2026, i.e., the day when the Court shall open immediately after the partial working days;
- (v) The Election Committee shall ensure that the entire election process is completed, including declaration of results, by 05.08.2026;
- (vi) and the newly elected Executive Committee shall take over the charge on 07.08.2026.

10. Upon being persuaded by us, the SCBA has graciously accepted

our suggestion that, for the upcoming elections for 2026-27, the post of Vice-President, SCBA, shall be exclusively earmarked for women members of the Bar. This would, it goes without saying, be in addition to their 33% representation in the Executive Committee, as per the previous order dated 06.05.2025.

11. Ordered accordingly.

12. List for further consideration on 15.07.2026.

(ARJUN BISHT)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(NIKITA SINGH)
COURT MASTER (NSH)