

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION NO. 9658 OF 2026

Shri Hari Educational Trust	..	Petitioner
V/s.		
University of Mumbai & Ors.	..	Respondents

WITH
WRIT PETITION NO. 9629 OF 2026
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO. 9682 OF 2026
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO. 10095 OF 2026
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO. 9683 OF 2026
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO. 9628 OF 2026
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO. 9684 OF 2026
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO. 9445 OF 2026
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO. 9627 OF 2026
WITH
WRIT PETITION NO. 9681 OF 2026

Mr. Vijay Thorat a/w Mr. Shailendra Pendse, Mr. Amar Bodke, Mr. C. S. Lamba, Mr. Md. Shamsher Ali, Mr. Bhavik Lokhande, Mr. Sachin More, Mr. Dhyey Bhavsar, Ms. Ayesha Qureshi for Petitioners in all Writ Petitions.

Mr. Prasad Gajbhiye a/w Ms. Rutuja A. Joshi for Respondent no. 2 – BCI.

Mr. Rui Rodrigues for Respondent nos. 1 and 3.

Smt. Kavita N. Solunke, Additional GP for Respondent – State.

**CORAM : R.I. CHAGLA AND
FARHAN P. DUBASH, JJ.**

DATE : 5th AUGUST 2026

P.C.:

WRIT PETITION NO. 9658 OF 2026, WRIT PETITION NO. 9629 OF 2026,
WRIT PETITION NO. 9682 OF 2026 AND WRIT PETITION NO. 10095 OF 2026

1. By an order dated 30th July 2026 passed in a batch of Writ Petitions that were before us on that date, this Court had directed Respondent no. 1 - University of Mumbai (**University**) to forthwith issue a conditional affiliation certificate to the colleges / educational institutions, if they made payment of the requisite penalty amount to the University. This Court had also directed that if such conditional affiliation certificate is then uploaded by such colleges / educational institutions, together with the other prescribed documentation and fees, on the portal of Respondent no. 2 – Bar Council of India (**BCI**), on or before 31st July 2026, which was the last date for colleges / educational institutions for this purpose, the said conditional affiliation certificate should be accepted by the BCI and treated as compliance of the relevant provision requiring submission of an affiliation certificate from the University.
2. In these four writ petitions, the colleges / educational institutions are stated to have uploaded the said conditional affiliation certification together with the other necessary documentation on the portal of the BCI, on or before 31st July 2026. They have also made payment of the necessary fees / charges. However, notwithstanding this, the grievance raised by colleges / educational institutions is that the BCI has not yet scrutinized their documents and granted the necessary approval/s. They point out that since then, the State Common Entrance Test Cell (**State CET Cell**) has notified the Schedule of Admissions for CAP Round 1, in which, the prescribed

timelines for 'College Option Form Filling' are from 5th August 2026 till 7th August 2026. They submit that on account of the pending approval from the BCI, their names are not listed in the 'list of Approved Colleges' which has resulted in them not being able to participate in the admission process for CAP Round 1. Accordingly, the colleges / educational institutions mentioned the matters in the morning session today for circulation in the afternoon session so as to enable them to seek urgent interim / ad-interim reliefs.

3. When the matter was called out in the afternoon session, we heard learned counsel for the parties and thereafter, kept the matter back at 5:00 pm whilst requesting Mr. Rui Rodrigues, learned counsel who appears on behalf of Respondent nos. 1 and 3 to seek appropriate instructions from the State CET Cell so as to allay the said grievances of the colleges / educational institutions. A similar request was also made to Mr. Prasad Gajbhiye, learned counsel who appears on behalf of the BCI.
4. When the matter was called out at 5:00 pm, Mr. Rodrigues responded with favourable instructions from the State CET Cell which were immediately appreciated and accepted by us. However, Mr. Gajbhiye informed us that the BCI would take at least a week more, in the case of three colleges / educational institutions and a couple of days, in the case of the fourth college / educational institution, to properly scrutinize the applications submitted by them and if found in place, grant the necessary approval to them. It is pointed out that the exercise of scrutiny involves perusal of various documents, permissions, etc. including those for previous years and that such process would take time.

5. It would not be out of place to mention that vide communication dated 13th July 2026, the BCI had granted a final opportunity to all existing centres of legal education to submit and complete applications for seeking extension or renewal of approval for existing law courses and sanctioned sections, by extending the last date for making such applications till 31st July 2026. Accordingly, all four colleges / educational institutions have complied with these timelines and submitted their application on the portal of the BCI. If the requisite verification and resultant approval is not given by the BCI in a timely manner, it would result in the Petitioners being unable to participate in the CAP Round 1, for no fault of theirs. This would result in grave and irreparable loss to them. Considering this, we pass the following order:

ORDER

- a) Respondent no. 2 - Bar Council of India shall forthwith scrutinize and process the applications submitted by the four petitioner colleges / educational institutions and in respect of the four Writ Petitions as expeditiously as possible and if the said applications are found in order, BCI shall grant the necessary approvals thereupon, no later than tomorrow, viz. on or before 6th August 2026.
- b) Upon such approvals being granted, the four petitioner colleges / educational institutions shall forthwith upload such approvals through their online login ids for obtaining the college approval and the Directorate of Higher Education, Pune (**DHE**) shall immediately verify the same and thereafter, grant its approval, on or before 7th August 2026.

- c) In that event, on or before 7th August 2026, the DHE shall also include the name/s of the approved colleges / educational institutions along with their latest approved intake capacity in its 'Approved List' so that the State CET Cell can fetch the updated data on its official portal.
- d) In such an event, the State CET Cell shall extend the last date for 'College Option Form Filling' by two days, i.e. up to 9th August 2026, so as to enable the students/candidates to exercise their preferences for the newly approved colleges / educational institutions.
- e) List these four writ petitions for compliance on 7th August 2026.

WRIT PETITION NO. 9683 OF 2026 AND WRIT PETITION NO. 9628 OF 2026

- 6. The Petitioners are permitted to file an affidavit placing on record the documentary evidence showing that on 31st July 2026, they had sought, albeit unsuccessfully, to make payment of the late fees together with their application and supporting documents on the portal of the BCI, and which transaction failed on account of some technical glitch and for no fault of the colleges / educational institutions, as orally contended before this Court today. This Affidavit shall be filed by tomorrow, viz., 6th August 2026.
- 7. Place these two Writ Petitions on 6th August 2026 on the Supplementary Board.

WRIT PETITION NO. 9445 OF 2026

8. Stand over to 6th August 2026.

**WRIT PETITION NO. 9684 OF 2026, WRIT PETITION NO. 9627 OF 2026 AND
WRIT PETITION NO. 9681 OF 2026**

9. Stand over to 7th August 2026.

(FARHAN P. DUBASH, J.)

(R. I. CHAGLA J.)

Shubham Gadhavepatil

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GADHAVEPATIL

Digitally signed
by SHUBHAM
SHESHRAO
GADHAVEPATIL
Date:
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