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भारतीय विधिज्ञ परिषद् **BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA**

(Statutory Body Constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961)

21, Rouse Avenue Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110 002

BCI:D: 5449 /2026

Date: 13.08.2026

To,

1. The Vice-Chancellor
NALSAR University of Law
Justice City, Shameerpet
Hyderabad, Telangana
2. The Secretary
All State Bar Councils

- Sub.: 1. Bar Council of India seeks factual report about the persons instrumental in initiating, organising, or mobilising the campaign relating to the participation of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India at Convocation of NALSAR University of Law.
2. No State Bar Council is to enrol any 2026-passed out student of NALSAR Law University, Hyderabad till further Orders of Bar Council of India.

Sir/Ma'am,

The Bar Council of India has taken note of reports and material appearing in the public domain concerning an organised campaign at NALSAR University of Law relating to the proposed participation/invitation of Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, in connection with the Convocation of the University.

The Bar Council of India considers it necessary that the true factual position be ascertained directly from the University instead of any conclusion being drawn merely from reports in the media, social media posts or other secondary materials.

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A student of Law, having no regard or respect for the highest Judicial Office of the country, is not expected to be a responsible or sensible Advocate, Teacher or a Judge. Such persons shall always be a liability on the profession. Such conduct, reflects adversely upon the person's suitability for entry into or association with the legal profession and is inconsistent with the dignity, discipline and ethical standards of the legal profession. Our experience is that such people are always indulged in strikes and boycotts and tarnish the image of the Legal Profession.

The present communication is, therefore, being addressed simultaneously to NALSAR University of Law and to all State Bar Councils. The University is requested and directed to furnish the factual account and identify the role, of persons principally instrumental in initiating, organising, coordinating or mobilising the reported campaign.

As per some reliable sources, there exists groupism and dirty politics among some of the academic staff and they have played very active role in misleading, instigating and misguiding the students. This is a very serious matter. The teachers, instead of involving themselves in their teaching job, are doing nasty politics in the campus. Bar Council of India, being the regulator of Legal Education cannot be a mute spectator of such a serious situation.

The Bar Council of India is a statutory body constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961. Section 7(1)(b) entrusts the Bar Council of India with laying down standards of professional conduct and etiquette for advocates, while Section 7(1)(g) entrusts it with general supervision and control over State Bar Councils. Sections 7(1)(h) and 7(1)(i) concern the promotion of legal education, laying down standards of such education. Section 49 empowers the Bar Council of India to frame Rules concerning, inter alia, professional conduct and etiquette and standards of legal education.

The Standards of Professional Conduct and Etiquette require a person supposed to be an Advocate, to conduct himself or herself in a dignified manner and to maintain towards Courts a respectful attitude, bearing in mind that the dignity of the judicial office is essential to the survival of a free community. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Ex-Capt. Harish Uppal v. Union of India*, (2003) 2 SCC 45 has authoritatively dealt with calls for strikes and boycott by advocates and emphasised the professional obligations attaching to membership of the Bar and the administration of justice. The students of Law are to be taught all these ethics and etiquettes, these are included in their courses of studies also.

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The Bar Council of India is conscious that the Standards of Professional Conduct and Etiquette directly govern persons who are to enter the profession as advocates and it is to be applied to every student who is undergoing legal education. The conduct of Law Students is of paramount importance and relevance.

There is, however, a material distinction between legitimate expression and conduct which involves organised intimidation, coercion, personal vilification, disruption, obstruction or an organised call for boycott directed against a constitutional functionary or an institutional programme.

The Vice-Chancellor, NALSAR University of Law, is accordingly requested to cause the matter to be examined and furnish an authenticated report to the Bar Council of India within a period of three days. The report should include a complete copy of the representation, petition, memorandum or other communication submitted to the University authorities concerning the proposed participation or invitation of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and the complete list of signatories available in the official records of the University.

The University is further directed to separately identify, on the basis of verifiable material, those persons, who were principally instrumental in initiating the campaign or representation, drafting it, circulating it through media, organising meetings connected with it, coordinating or mobilising participation, communicating with the press or media on behalf of the group, administering any official or organised electronic or social-media group used for coordination insofar as such information is available with the University, or proposing, issuing or mobilising any call for boycott, obstruction, disruption or organised non-participation in the Convocation or any programme connected with the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India.

The report should also identify the names and designations of office-bearers, of the Student Bar Council, Students' Union, student committee or other recognised student organisation who participated in initiating, approving, coordinating or circulating the campaign. And if any faculty member, research scholar, alumnus or outside person participated in initiating, drafting, coordinating, advising or facilitating the campaign, the University should state the nature of such involvement.

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If any meeting of the Student Bar Council, Students Union or other recognised student body was held in connection with the matter, copies of the relevant resolution, minutes, agenda or other official record should also be furnished. The University shall also state whether permission was sought or granted for any protest or organised activity and whether any University rule concerning student conduct, discipline, use of University platforms or conduct of official functions was invoked.

Where information is available, the University should also indicate whether any person identified as a principal organiser or coordinator is already enrolled as an advocate with a State Bar Council and provide the relevant enrolment particulars.

For the avoidance of doubt, the University is specifically requested to maintain a clear distinction between persons who merely signed or supported the representation, and the persons who organised or coordinated the campaign, persons who proposed or mobilised an actual boycott, obstruction or disruption.

The Bar Council of India does not, at this stage, record that any person stands disqualified from enrolment under Section 24A merely on account of participation in the aforesaid representation or campaign. However, where material concerning the conduct of a particular applicant is under active statutory examination by the Bar Council of India and such examination may have a bearing upon regulatory considerations governing entry into the profession, completion of enrolment during pendency of such examination may create a *fait accompli* and render the statutory examination ineffective.

Upon receipt and preliminary examination of the authenticated report from NALSAR University of Law, the Bar Council of India shall separately communicate to the State Bar Councils the names of such persons, if any, whose individual role requires further statutory consideration.

Where the name of a particular person is specifically communicated by the Bar Council of India for such inquiry, no order granting enrolment shall be passed and the name of such person shall not be entered upon the State Roll. If the enrolment application is already pending, the final decision thereon shall remain deferred during the period of inquiry.

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Where an application is already before an Enrolment Committee, the concerned State Bar Council shall immediately intimate the Bar Council of India of the name of the applicant, the enrolment application number, the date of application, the proposed date of consideration and the present status of the application.

Any final adverse consideration shall be undertaken only in accordance with the Advocates Act, 1961, the Rules framed thereunder and the principles of natural justice.

The State Bar Councils shall also ensure that a person whose name has specifically been communicated by the Bar Council of India does not circumvent the pending examination by seeking enrolment before another State Bar Council. The names communicated during the preliminary stage shall, insofar as possible, be treated confidentially, since communication of a name by the Bar Council of India does not itself constitute any conclusive finding of misconduct or disqualification.

The interim arrangement shall continue only until the individual issue is disposed of by the Bar Council of India or until further directions are issued.

The interim deferment contemplated above is intended solely to preserve the integrity and efficacy of the statutory enrolment process. Entry upon a State Roll results in acquisition of the statutory status of an advocate and brings into operation the rights, privileges, duties and professional obligations attached to membership of the legal profession.

It is also necessary to reiterate that legal education necessarily encourages critical reasoning, debate and analysis of judicial decisions. But, at the same time, those seeking entry into a regulated profession intrinsically connected with the administration of justice are expected to appreciate the distinction between reasoned criticism and conduct which, if established upon due examination, may involve intimidation, obstruction, organised disruption or disregard of the institutional responsibilities attached to the profession.

The Bar Council of India shall consider the matter strictly on the basis of verified facts, and the individual role of each person concerned.

Till further orders, no student of NALSAR University of Law, who has obtained the Law Degree in the year 2026, shall be enrolled by any State Bar Council as an Advocate.

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NALSAR University of Law is requested to furnish the authenticated factual report at the earliest. All State Bar Councils are requested to place the present communication before their Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Enrolment Committee for information and necessary compliance with the directions contained herein.

Final decision in the matter would be taken on 19th August, 2026, after receipt of the report from the Vice-Chancellor.

Receipt of the present communication may kindly be acknowledged.

This is for your kind information and necessary action.



Manan Kumar Mishra
Chairman,
Bar Council of India