



2026:AHC-LKO:57083-DB

**HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD
LUCKNOW**

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION (PIL) No. - 506 of 2026

Divya Tripathi @ Divya Mishra

.....Petitioner(s)

Versus

The Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh and others Thru. its Secy. Lko. and 2
others

.....Respondent(s)

Counsel for Petitioner(s)	: Sushil Kumar Singh, Ayush Singh
Counsel for Respondent(s)	: Subhash Chandra Pandey, Shishir Jain

Along With

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION (PIL) No. - 177 of 2026

Mithlesh Srivastava

.....Petitioner(s)

Versus

The Oudh Bar Association, Honble High Court Sitting at Lko. Thru. its
General Secy.

.....Respondent(s)

Counsel for Petitioner(s)	: Km. Vishwa Mohini, Jan Laxmi Tewari Senani, Rajesh Kumar
Counsel for Respondent(s)	:

Judgment Reserved on: 11.08.2026

Judgment Delivered on: 14.08.2026

Court No. - 1

**HON'BLE RAJAN ROY, J.
HON'BLE MANJIVE SHUKLA, J.**

1. Heard.

2. PIL No. 506 of 2026 has been taken up along with PIL No. 177
of 2026.

3. Relief prayed in PIL No. 506 of 2026 is as under:

“Wherefore, it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Court may kindly be pleased:-

(i) issue a writ, order or direction in the nature of 'Mandamus' directing the Opposite Party No. 3/Oudh Bar Association High Court Lucknow to comply the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 24-03-2025, 16-01-2026, 13-03-2026 and 17-04-2026 in Special Leave Petition (Civil) No. 1404/2025 "Deeksha Versus State of Karnataka" (as contained in Annexure No.-1 to this writ petition) regarding the 30% representation of Woman Advocates in its Executive Committee and Member Governing Council and notify on notice board with immediate effect.

(ii) issue a writ, order or direction in the nature of 'Mandamus' commanding the Opposite Party No. 3/Oudh Bar Association High Court Lucknow to start the representation of 30% seats in the Annual General Election of Oudh Bar Association High Court Lucknow, particularly the top posts of single posts i.e. the post of Secretary, Treasure, President be earmarked for women Advocate candidates in 2026 and this should be done immediately. Post of President of Bar in 2026 be made for women reservation.

(iii) issue any other suitable order or direction which this Hon'ble Court may deem fit, just and proper under the circumstances of the case may also be passed in favour of the petitioner.

(iv) allow the petition of petitioner with costs. ”

4. Relief prayed in PIL No. 177 of 2026 is as under:

“Wherefore, it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Court may graciously be pleased to grant the following reliefs:-

(i.) That a writ, order or direction, in the nature of Mandamus, commanding the Opp. Parties to amend the Rules of the Oudh Bar Association to provide:-

** One-third (1/3rd) reservation for women lawyers in the Executive Committee and Governing Council seats.*

** The post of '**Treasurer**' to be reserved exclusively for lady lawyers.*

** The single posts of '**President**', '**General Secretary**' and '**Senior Vice President**' to be filled by lady lawyers on a turn and rotation basis.*

*(ii.) That a writ, order or direction, in the nature of **Mandamus**, to the Opp. Parties to implement said reservation **before the notification of the next Annual Election** for the year 2026.*

(iii.) To issue any other suitable order or direction, which this Hon'ble Court may deem, fit and proper under the facts and circumstances of the case, in favour of the petitioner.

(iv.) To award the cost, of the writ petition in favour of the petitioner against the Opp. Parties."

5. On 07.08.2026, we had passed the following order in PIL No. 177 of 2026:-

"1. Let dasti notice be issued to the petitioner for service upon opposite party nos.1 and 2.

2. Put up on 11.08.2026, as fresh.

3. Whatever response is required to be filed by the opposite party nos. 1 & 2 be filed by the next date.

4. Shri Pt. S. Chandra, President of the Oudh Bar Association is present in Court and has heard this order. The General Secretary of the Oudh Bar Association is also present in Court.

5. The other similar matter i.e. W.P.I.L. No.506 of 2026 is coming on 11.08.2026."

6. No response has been filed.

7. Service upon Opposite Party No. 1 is sufficient.

8. In PIL No. 506 of 2026, we had passed an order on 26.05.2026 in the following terms:-

"1. Heard.

2. This petition has been filed as a Public Interest Litigation by a member of the Bar seeking reservation for women members of the Oudh Bar Association, High Court, Lucknow in the light of various orders passed by Hon'ble the Supreme Court in Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No.1404 of 2025; Deeksha N. Amruthesh vs. State of Karnataka & ors. Learned counsel for the petitioner Shri Sushil Kumar Singh has taken us to various orders in this regard, specially the order dated 06.05.2025, by which, certain posts were reserved for women candidates in the Supreme Court Bar Association.

3. Shri H.G.S. Parihar, learned Senior Advocate, Shri R.C. Tewari, Pt. S. Chandra, President of the Oudh Bar Association along with Shri Lalit Kishore Tewari, Secretary of the Oudh Bar Association, High Court, Lucknow are present. They submitted that the petition is pre-mature. The Bar Association is bound by the orders of Hon'ble the Supreme Court but the decision as to which of the posts should be reserved, in the light of the 30% reservation directed by Hon'ble the Supreme Court, would be considered by the Annual General Meeting of the Oudh Bar Association which is scheduled to be held in the month of July, 2026.

4. Considering that the term of the existing governing body of the Oudh Bar Association is expiring on 02.08.2026, though, in this context it was also asserted by the existing office bearers of the Oudh Bar Association that one month extension is permitted, which has been disputed by Shri Sushil Kumar Singh, learned counsel for the petitioner and a meeting of the General Body, that is Annual General Meeting, is to take place prior to it, while, we do not wish to enter into the question as regards the extension, as referred herein-above, as the Oudh Bar Association accepts the fact that it is bound by the 30% reservation, as prescribed by Hon'ble the Supreme Court in the above mentioned case, and proposes to consider the matter further as to which of the posts are to be reserved in compliance thereof in the ensuing Annual General

Meeting to be held in July, 2026, and in this regard the suggestions of the petitioner would also be considered, therefore, we post this matter in the second week of July, 2026. Whatever decision is to be taken in the Annual General Meeting will be placed before us on the next date. It is open for the opposite parties to file a response, if they so chose.

5. List on 13.07.2026. "

9. The Elders Committee has now taken over the role of getting the election conducted but the term of the outgoing Governing/Executive Council has also been extended for one month i.e. till 30.08.2026, by the said Elders Committee, as per the Bye-laws of the Oudh Bar Association.

10. Shri Lalit Tiwari, General Secretary of the Oudh Bar Association is present. The term of the Executive Committee, of which he is General Secretary, has been extended for one month and that period is subsisting. As regards, Opposite Party No. 2, it is only required to get the elections conducted and it is not the body responsible for reserving posts, for which elections are to be held. In any case, it is informed by Shri Lalit Tiwari that an Annual General Meeting was held on 29.07.2026, wherein a decision was taken to reserve one post of Treasurer, three out of six post of Junior Executive and three out of six post of Senior Executive Body. He has placed before us a resolution dated 29.07.2026 passed in the said Annual General Meeting which is taken on record.

11. We are, however, of the opinion that the decision in the Annual General Meeting does not ensure adequate representation of women nor is it in tune with the letter and spirit of the orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in ***S.L.P. (C) No. 1404 of 2025 (Deeksha N Amruthesh Vs. State of Karnataka & Others)***. The order dated 13.03.2026 passed therein reads as under:-

"1. The issue that arises for consideration in this batch of matters pertains to ensuring 30% representation for women lawyers as Office Bearers or Executive Members in every Bar Association, including at Taluka or District levels and specialised bodies like Tax and RERA, as well as High Court Bar Associations. It may be noted that such representation has already been achieved with the active support of Bar members in the Supreme Court Bar Association. In some High Courts, such as the Delhi High Court, Bar members have been very supportive and have graciously ensured representation, resulting in many such Bar Associations implementing our order dated 24.03.2025.

2. However, it was brought to our notice that in some States, the benefit of representation for women members was not percolating at different types of Bar Associations such as Tax, RERA, NGT, DRT, as well as at the sub-divisional level. Therefore, this Court vide order dated 16.01.2026, sought a report from the Registrar Generals of all the High Courts with a commitment to ensure adequate representation from all the Bar Associations. A separate direction was issued to the Registrar General of the High Court of Karnataka, along with other Registrar Generals, to submit a status report on the representation of women advocates in the governing/executive bodies of the various Bar Associations.

3. In deference thereto, the Registrar Generals of 13 High Courts have submitted their compliance reports. They have addressed issues such as: (i) whether the Bar Associations in their jurisdictions have adequate representation of women in the executive body, (ii) whether the Bar Associations have included a requirement of 30% representation for women, and (iii) what remedial measures have been implemented where the directions issued by this Court could not be complied with.

4. Be that as it may, 12 High Courts are yet to send their responses/compliance reports.

5. We, accordingly, direct the remaining 12 High Courts to firstly ensure that, within all Bar Associations in their respective jurisdictions, at least 30% of the members of the Bar involved in the election of the governing or executive body of such Bar Associations are women. However, where the number of women lawyers enrolled with such Bar Associations falls significantly short of 30%, those available may serve on their governing body.

6. Where there are enough women members and, for some reason, they could not contest the election, the District Judges

are hereby authorised to nominate women members to the executive committee of the respective Bar Associations within their jurisdiction and submit a compliance report to the Registrar General of the High Court. The Registrar General will then collate these reports and forward them to this Court.

7. We emphasise that these directions must be followed, especially since our experience shows that most of the Bar Associations across the country have wholeheartedly accepted the policy decision made by this Court on the judicial side. In any case, if there are any reservations at the level of a particular subdivision or district, those details must be forwarded to this Court for appropriate directions based on the peculiar facts and circumstances of the case. The Registrar Generals of the 12 High Courts, who have not yet submitted a compliance report, are instructed to do so within two weeks.

8. Post this matter for further consideration on 17.04.2026."

12. Another order passed on 16.04.2026 passed by the Supreme Court of India in the said proceedings reads as under:-

"1. At the outset, Ms. Jayna Kothari, learned Senior Counsel, representing one set of the petitioners, submits that some time may be granted to collate the information received from the different High Courts with respect to ensuring 30% representation of women members of the Bar in District Bar Associations. Such collation is stated to be necessary in view of the fact that certain Bar Associations have not complied with the directions contained in our order dated 13.03.2026.

2. We also deem it necessary to issue a word of caution and a stern warning that wherever the Bar Associations have failed to comply with, or shall be found to have defied, the directions issued hereinabove, such Bar Associations shall be liable to be suspended through a judicial order and fresh elections shall be directed to be conducted.

3. The Registrar Generals of all the High Courts are hereby directed to communicate this order and submit a report along with the details of the Bar Associations that have failed to comply with the order or are reluctant to comply with these directions.

4. While acceding to the request of Ms. Kothari, we make it clear, in no uncertain terms, that the purpose and object of order dated 13.03.2026 is to ensure that 30% of the posts of

the governing or executive members in every Bar Association, on a pan-India basis, shall be for the purpose of ensuring adequate representation of women advocates. In cases where women advocate members are not present and/or do not contest the elections, the shortfall in representation shall be ensured through nominations.

5. In this regard, we modify paragraph 6 of the order dated 13.03.2026 and direct that such nomination shall be made by the Administrative Judge/Portfolio Judge of the jurisdictional High Court, in consultation with the concerned District and Sessions Judge, the elected office bearers, and the senior-most women members of the respective District Bar Association. The tenure of the nominated member shall be co-terminus with that of the elected members.

6. The application (I.A. No.109832/2026) moved by the Bar Council of India, accordingly, stands disposed of.

I.A. Nos.114304/2026 & 114308/2026

7. Issue notice.

8. The Registrar General of the Madhya Pradesh High Court is directed to submit a Fact-Finding Report with respect to the allegations made in these applications.

IA Nos.114357/2026 & 114359/2026

9. Issue notice.

10. The Registrar General of the Andhra Pradesh High Court is directed to submit a Fact-Finding Report.

IA No.114059/2026

11. Issue notice.

12. The Registrar General of the Punjab and Haryana High Court is directed to submit a Fact-Finding Report.

IA Nos.54036/2026, 55629/2026

13. Issue notice,

14. The Registrar General of the Bombay High Court is directed to submit a Fact-Finding Report.

MAIN MATTER

15. Post the matter on 12.05.2026."

13. It is not in dispute that directions have been issued by Hon'ble the Supreme Court under which 30% of posts in Executive Body/Governing Council of the Bar Associations have to be reserved for women. These directions have been issued under Article 142 of the Constitution of India. These directions are binding on all Bar Associations who are obliged to provide the aforesaid reservation, subject, of course, to any further orders being passed in this regard by Hon'ble the Supreme Court in the aforesaid proceedings, pending before it. There has to be 30% reservation for women.

14. We have also perused orders passed by Hon'ble the Supreme Court in various IAs filed in CA No. 3401 of 2003 and CA No. 3402 of 2003 (Supreme Court Bar Association vs. B.D. Kaushik and Another), etc. in the context of reservation of posts in Governing Body/Council of Supreme Court Bar Association especially the order dated 08.05.2026.

15. Apart from the fact that all Bar Associations are bound by the orders/directions issued by the Supreme Court of India for providing 30% reservation for women, there is Article 144 which reads as under:

"144. Civil and judicial authorities to act in aid of the Supreme Court - All authorities, civil and judicial, in the territory of India shall act in aid of the Supreme Court."

This Article enjoins all authorities, civil and judicial, in the territory of India to act in aid of the Supreme Court of India.

16. The outgoing Members of Bar Association i.e. the General Secretary and President whose term has been extended for one month expressed their reservation regarding reservation of posts for women higher than Treasurer but they could not put forth any such reasoning for such an assertion. Why should the women candidates be deprived of higher posts, no reason could be put forth in support of this assertion.

17. In fact, several Senior Members of the Bar such as Shri Anil Tewari, Dr. L.P. Misra, etc. urged the Bench that adequate representation can be provided to women on various posts in the Governing/Executive Council of the Oudh Bar Association, however, they submitted that the post of President and General Secretary should not be reserved for election this year i.e., 2026 instead they can be considered for reservation for the next year and onwards. They also advocated that out of four posts of Vice President some can be reserved for women candidate.

18. We have been informed that as per the by-laws of the Oudh Bar Association, its Governing/Executive Council comprises of a President; a Senior Vice President having at least 20 years of regular and active practice; Two Vice Presidents having ten years of regular and active practice; One Vice President having below 10 years regular and active practice; One General Secretary; One Treasurer; Three Joint Secretaries; six ordinary Members of the Governing Council having more than 15 years of regular and active practice and 6 ordinary Members having less than 15 years of regular and active practice. Thus, there are total of 22 office bearers of the Governing/Executive Council of the Oudh Bar Association

out of which at least 7 should be reserved for women in keeping with the letter and spirit of the orders passed by Hon'ble the Supreme Court. Posts which are less than three in number will have to be reserved by applying rotation, to secure adequate representation.

19. In view of the above, in order to give effect to the orders passed by the Supreme Court of India in letter and spirit and to provide reservation of 30% of the posts of Governing/Executive Council for women, we order as under:

(i) Out of six posts of Junior Executive, two shall be reserved for women in the ensuing elections for 2026 and this reservation shall continue accordingly in the succeeding years.

(ii) Likewise, out of six posts of Senior Executive, two shall be reserved for women in the ensuing elections for 2026 and this reservation shall continue accordingly in the succeeding years.

(iii) One out of three posts of Joint Secretary shall be reserved for women in the ensuing elections for 2026 and this reservation shall continue accordingly in the succeeding years.

(iv) The post of Treasurer shall be reserved for women in the ensuing elections of 2026 as already reserved by Annual General Body and this post shall again be reserved for women in 2029 thereafter in 2032 and so on and so forth, accordingly, by rotation.

(v) The post of General Secretary shall be reserved for women candidate in the elections to be held next year i.e., 2027 thereafter it shall again be reserved for women in the year 2030 and then in the 2033 and shall continue to be reserved so on and so forth, accordingly, by rotation.

(vi) The post of Vice President having below 10 years of regular and active practice shall be reserved for women candidate in the elections to be held in the year 2028 thereafter it shall again be reserved for women in the year 2031 and then in the 2034 and shall continue to be reserved so on and so forth, accordingly, by rotation.

(vii) Out of two posts of Vice President having 10 years of regular and active practice, one shall be reserved for women in the the elections to be held in the next year i.e., 2027 which shall again be reserved for women candidate in the year 2030 and then in the year 2033 and so on and so forth, accordingly, by rotation.

(viii) The post of Senior Vice President having 20 years of regular and active practice shall be reserved for women candidate in the elections to be held this year i.e., 2026 and thereafter shall be reserved for them in the year 2029 and then in the year 2032 and shall be continue to be reserved accordingly, by rotation.

(ix) The post of President shall be reserved for women in the elections to be held in the year 2028 and thereafter, it shall again be reserved for women candidate in the year 2031 and then in the year 2034 and shall continue to be reserved, accordingly, by rotation.

20. We have applied the rotation system on some posts which are less than three in number so as to ensure adequate representation of women candidates.

21. In the event any of the post reserved for women candidate cannot be filled up on account of non-availability of women candidate, then, in keeping with the observations/directions of the Supreme Court of India contained in para 5 of its order dated 16.04.2026 quoted hereinabove and based on same reasoning, such

post shall have to be filled by nomination of woman candidate by the Senior Judge of this Court at Lucknow.

22. As these directions/orders are being passed to facilitate the provision of reservation for women Lawyers as ordered by Hon'ble the Supreme Court under Article 142 of the Constitution, therefore, they shall be read into the existing Bye-laws of the Oudh Bar Association and shall be implemented accordingly.

23. Further, as both the writ petitions before us are Public Interest Litigation, therefore, to ensure that the candidates with proper credentials are elected to the posts for which elections are held it is provided that in the nomination form the candidates shall specifically disclose the details of FIR or criminal case which may have been lodged/filed against them with remarks/explanation by the candidate in this regard, and the result of such proceedings whether it has resulted in acquittal or conviction or is pending. If there is any concealment or misrepresentation with regard to these disclosures, then, the candidature or his/her election, as the case may be, can be cancelled on this ground. This information should be made known to the Electors of the Oudh Bar Association.

24. Both the writ petitions are ***disposed of*** in the aforesaid terms.

(Manjive Shukla,J.) (Rajan Roy,J.)

August 14, 2026

Santosh/-