

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGSWrit Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1049/2026

M. VARADHAN

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 249881/2026 - STAY APPLICATION)

ITEM NO. 41

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1092/2026

(IA No. 259858/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS and IA No. 262285/2026 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES)

Date : 02-09-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI
HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE V. MOHANAFor Petitioner(s) : Mrs. Madhavi Diwan, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Aditya Kumar Choudhary, Adv.
Mr. M Velmurugan, Adv.
Mr. Sandeep Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Aditya Anand Singh, Adv.
Mr. Rajat Srivastava, Adv.
Ms. Aandrita Deb, Adv.
Ms. Sonal Chopra, Adv.
Mr. Rajesh Singh Chauhan, AOR

in Item 41 Mr. Deepak Prakash, AOR

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Adv.

Mr. Alok Singh, Adv.
Ms. Puja Shaw, Adv.Mr. Maninder Singh, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Guru Krishna Kumar, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Radhika Gautam, AOR
Mr. Anjul Dwivedi, Adv.
Mr. Kunal Thakur, Adv.Mr. P.V. Surendranath, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Biju P. Raman, AOR

Mr. Sawan Kumar Shukla, Adv.
Ms. Lekha Sudhakaran, Adv.

in Item 41

Mr. Maninder Singh, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Guru Krishna Kumar, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Radhika Gautam, AOR
Mr. Anjul Dwivedi, Adv.
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Mr. Sawan Kumar Shukla, Adv.
Ms. Lekha Sudhakaran, Adv.

Ms. Shobha Gupta, Sr. Adv.
Mr. C.U. Singh, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Sanjay Hegde, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Shekhar G. Devasa, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Deepak Prakash, AOR
Ms. Yogamaya M.G., Adv.
Ms. Jyoti P. Deborah, Adv.
Ms. Divayangana Mallik, Adv.
Ms. Mamta Singh, Adv.
Mr. Prateek Sharma, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

1. The core issue that arises for consideration in these matters pertains to the constitution and composition of the State Bar Councils and the Bar Council of India in accordance with the provisions of the Advocates Act, 1961 and the rules framed thereunder.

2. Pursuant to various orders passed by this Court in *M. Varadhan v. Union of India and Anr.*, W.P. (Civil) No. 1319 of 2023, elections to the State Bar Councils have since been conducted. Additionally vide orders dated 04.12.2025 and 08.12.2025 in *Yogamaya M.G. v. Union of India and Ors.*, W.P. (Civil) No. 581/2024, it was directed that there shall be 30% representation

for the women members of the Bar in every State Bar Council. Out of this 30% representation, 20% was to be directly elected, whereas 10% was to be co-opted.

3. When the issue of the manner and modalities of co-option arose, this Court vide order dated 04.08.2026 in *Yogamaya MG (supra)* resolved that the Chief Justices of the jurisdictional High Courts in consultation with the newly elected members of the respective State Bar Councils, shall nominate two women members, preferably from among former women judges of the respective High Courts or senior women members of the Bar.

4. It goes without saying that once the co-option exercise is complete, the composition of the State Bar Councils shall stand notified. In order to rule out any uncertainty, we therefore deem it appropriate to request all the Chief Justices to complete the exercise of co-option within a period of two weeks. The composition of the newly-elected State Bar Councils shall be notified within one week thereafter.

5. Following this, each State Bar Council shall be required to elect its Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, office-bearers as well as "one member by each State Bar Council from amongst its members" as member of the Bar Council of India under Section 4(1)(c) of the Advocates Act, 1961. These elections, therefore, are also required to be conducted at the earliest. Consequently, we direct the newly-constituted State Bar Councils to elect their statutorily prescribed office-bearers, including their representative to the Bar Council of India, within a period of two weeks from the date of notification of their composition.

6. All the State Bar Councils are directed to file compliance reports in this regard.
7. On receipt of these compliance reports, the issue re: constitution of the Bar Council of India under Section 4 of the Advocates Act, 1961 shall be considered.
8. Meanwhile, Mr. Maninder Singh and Mr. S. Guru Krishna Kumar, learned Senior Counsel representing the Bar Council of India and its office-bearers, have fairly stated that the learned Attorney General for India and the learned Solicitor General of India shall be actively associated with the policy-making process leading to any policy decision that may be taken before the new Bar Council of India is constituted.
9. Issue notice to all the State Bar Councils.
10. Dasti, in addition, is permitted.
11. Post these matters on 23.09.2026 to await the first compliance re: completion of the co-option exercise and constitution of the State Bar Councils.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI DILEEP KUMAR)
DY. REGISTRAR