

NINA GUPTA

Advocate

Supreme Court of India

Flat No. 38 Dakshineswar
10 Hailey Road (10th Floor)
New Delhi-110001

Chamber No. 125
Setalwad Block
Opposite Supreme Court,
New Delhi – 110001

Mob: +91 8800922455
Fax: 9111 23329273
9111 23357521
Email: ninaguptalawyer@gmail.com

Sub: Corrigendum to your News Item dated 27.09.2021 at 09:37 p.m. in respect of Resolution attached with the said News Item.

A Press Release has been issued on the basis of resolution as drafted by Mr. Vikas Singh, President SCBA on the official letterhead on 27th September, 2021 pursuant to a Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Association held on the same day. The resolution so drafted has been attached with your news clipping dated 27.09.2021 at 09:37 p.m.

In the said Resolution, it has been erroneously mentioned that a resolution was passed “unanimously” to request the Hon’ble Supreme Court to commence physical hearings “forthwith”. Firstly, it was not an “unanimous” but a decision of the majority. Secondly, the Resolution uses my name (Nina Gupta) but erroneously does not record my statement. I had stated that the matter with regard to opening of the Courts for physical hearing should be left with the Court and that the Hon’ble Chief Justice of India (CJI) in a recent function had stated that majority of the Advocates and Senior Advocates have reservations. I further stated that CJI is considering opening of the Courts after Dussehra holidays and therefore where is the need to pass a Resolution at this stage. Further, the Resolution attached with your news clipping gives an impression that I have objected to the entry of the Advocates in the Supreme Court building by use of the proximity card. This again has been wrongly portrayed by Mr. Vikas Singh. It was I who suggested that stopping/preventing lawyers entering to Supreme Court for hybrid hearing or otherwise with the use of proximity cards is infringement of our fundamental right

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to carry on our profession and therefore with regard to this issue I had not opposed the unanimous decision passed by the Executive Committee of SCBA.

Immediately on coming to know of the above erroneous noting of the Resolution, at 09:04 pm, I sent a Whatsapp message to Mr. Vikas Singh asking him to modify the incorrect Press Release drafted by him. My message to Mr. Vikas Singh is quoted below:-

“I record my strong objection to the incomplete and incorrect version of what I said with regard to opening of physical hearing. This is an incorrect press release by you. If you have used my name then you should have put in my entire statement that the matter relating to opening the courts for physical hearing is to be left to be decided by the Court and Honble CJI in a recent function had stated that majority of the advocates and senior advocates have reservations... I further said that CJI is considering opening of the Courts after Dussehra holidays and therefore where is the need to pass a resolution at this stage. Apart from this it is most objectionable that your press release reads that I have opposed the entry of lawyers by use of proximity card. In fact it was I who suggested that stopping/preventing lawyers entry to SC for hybrid hearing or otherwise with the use of proximity cards is infringement of our fundamental right to carry on our profession and therefore with regard to this issue I had not Opposed the unanimous resolution. By giving press release which is incomplete and incorrect and has been drafted by you to put me in a bad light needs to be

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immediately modified or else I will be constrained to give a press release to put my version on record.”

As discussed you are requested to immediately issue a correction in terms of this message as my name has been used by Mr. Vikas Singh incorrectly which has the effect of damaging my image as an elected executive member of the Supreme Court Bar.

NINA GUPTA

28TH September, 2021