

WP NO. 15832/2026 (GM - RES) Connected Cases: WP NO. 15252/2026, WP NO. 17256/2026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

[SMT SANDYA U PRABHU VS. THE RETURNING OFFICER AND OTHERS]

12.06.2026

(VIDEO CONFERENCING / PHYSICAL HEARING)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SURAJ GOVINDARAJ

ORAL ORDER

1. Smt.Anubha Srivastava, learned counsel for the Bar Council of India has filed a memo enclosing a photocopy of the counter affidavit filed by the Additional Secretary of the Bar Council of India. She submits that this was received by her on email. The original is awaited to be received.
2. Considering the urgency of the matter, the said printout of the scanned copy of the affidavit received by her is taken into consideration.
3. On a reading of the said affidavit, it is seen that the elections to the Bar Councils of various States are being held in terms of the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the case of ***M.Varadhan vs. Union of India & anr.,¹***. In the said matter, directions had been issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court,

¹ WP No.1319/2023 dated 18.11.2025

mandating the manner of conduct of election and the authorities to deal with various aspects.

4. A perusal of the affidavit and as per the submissions of Smt.Anubha Srivastava, it is submitted that Rule 7 of Bar Council of India Rules and the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court are harmonious to each other and they have to be read together.
5. Smt.Anubha Srivastava, learned counsel for Bar Council of India submits that:
 - 5.1. Whenever any complaint is received by Returning Officer, it is required to immediately forward it to the High-Powered Election Committee of that respective States. The High-Powered Election Committee is required to consider all the objections which are forwarded and pass necessary orders in terms of Rule 7 of the Bar Council of India Rules.
 - 5.2. Her submission is that if any person is aggrieved by the orders passed by the High-Powered Election Committee, the next stage of grievance redressal is before the High-Powered Election Supervisory Committee and thereafter to the Tribunal.

- 5.3. Her submission is that if the grievances still persist, then the candidate would have to approach the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India so long as the grievances are during the conduct of election and prior to the announcement of results. After the announcement of results, she submits that it will be Central Election Tribunal, which would have to consider any grievance filed before it on the declaration of results.
6. The above hierarchy of settlement of grievance is required to be followed by all concerned including the candidates, Returning Officer, Committee, so established. In the present matter, the complaints have been filed by the candidates to the Returning Officer, the same are stated to be forwarded by the Returning Officer to the High-Powered Election Committee.
7. Sri K. N. Phanindra, learned Senior counsel submits that the complaints have been forwarded to the Returning Officer.
8. Sri Kiran V.Rohn, learned counsel who appears for the High-Powered Election Committee, submits that many of

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those complaints have already been considered and orders passed after hearing the concerned candidate.

9. In that view of the matter, Sri. K. N. Phanindra, learned Senior counsel is directed to place on record the total number of complaints received with the copies of the complaints and the forwardal orders to the High-Powered Election committee.
10. Sri Kiran V.Rohn, learned counsel appearing for the High-Powered Election committee is directed to place on record the orders passed on each of the complaints with copy of the orders as also to place on record the matters where orders are yet to be passed. In respect of complaints filed by the petitioners, the copies of the orders to also be furnished to the respective petitioners.
11. If the petitioners are aggrieved by any order passed by the High-Powered Election Committee, they would always have recourse to the Supervisory Committee.
12. The Petitioner - Party-in-person in W.P.No.15252/2026 submits that this Court can intervene and stay the counting as also declaration of elections. The Hon'ble Apex Court has categorically held that no Civil Court or High Court shall interfere in the matter. Hence, the

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request made by the petitioner is rejected. Memo filed by the said party-in-person is taken on record.

13. For placing the above documents on record, relist on **15.06.2026 at 2.30 p.m.**

**(SURAJ GOVINDARAJ)
JUDGE**

PRS
List No.: 2 SI No.: 5