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05.05.2026
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Ct.3.

IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA
CONSTITUTIONAL WRIT JURISDICTION
APPELLATE SIDE

WPA 15285 of 2025

Atanu Halder & Ors.

Versus

The State of West Bengal & Ors.

With

WPA 5394 of 2020

With

CAN 1 of 2020 (Old No. CAN 3080 of 2020)

The University of Calcutta & Ors.

Versus

Bar Council of India & Ors

Mr. Kamalesh Jha

Mr. Md. Bani Israil

Mr. Sayd Md. Sayed

Mr. A. Raha

... For the petitioners

Mr. Nilotpal Chatterjee

Mr. Saquib Siddiqui

Mr. Sourabh Sengupta

... For the University of Calcutta

Mr. Avinash Kankani

Mr. Sagnik Mukherjee

... For the Bar Council of India.

Mr. Vimal Kumar Shahi

Ms. Shomdutta Bhattacharjee

Ms. Sweta Sharma

Ms. Liza Chatterjee

... For the respondent no.9

Mr. Somnath Mukherjee

... For South Calcutta Law College.

Mr. Santanu Chatterjee

... For the respondent no.8.

1. Today, Mr. Kankani, learned advocate representing the Bar Council of India has placed before this Court the conditional letter, extension of approval granted to Surendranath Law College, Kolkata, for imparting 5-year B.A. LL.B. (H) course with intake of two

sections of 60 students in each section and 5-year B.A. LL.B. integrated course with intake of one section of 60 students for the academic year 2026-27 with regularization being done from the academic session/s 2014-15 to 2025-26 for imparting 5-year B.A. LL.B (H) with intake of two sections of 60 students in each section subject to compliance of Rules of Legal Education, 2008 and all circulars/directives/guidelines/notifications as also the conditions noted in the letter dated 4th May, 2026.

2. Independent of the above, he has also placed before this Court a letter granting extension of approval to South Calcutta Law College, Kolkata, for imparting 5 year B.A. LL.B. (H) course with intake of two sections of 60 students along with one additional section of 60 students i.e. total three sections of 60 students in each section for the academic year 2026-27 subject to compliance of Rules of Legal Education, 2008 and all circulars/directives/guidelines/notifications issued from time to time and/or the upon compliance of the conditions set forth therein.

3. Let copies of the above letters as placed before this Court are taken on record.

4. In the light of the above, I am of the view that the concerned colleges must place before this Court by way of an affidavit the steps already taken by such colleges and/or steps they propose to take for compliance with the directives issued by the Bar Council of India. The

respective colleges are also required to disclose by way of an affidavit as to whether the respective colleges are compliant with the Rules of Legal Education, 2008. The aforesaid direction is being issued in peculiar facts of the case and in the larger interest of the students.

5. In the light of the development as aforesaid, in my view and noting from Mr. Jha, learned advocate representing the petitioners that the petitioner nos. 1 and 2 have already succeeded in getting themselves admitted in Hazra Law College in terms of merits, the petitioner no.3 shall be at liberty to approach the other colleges for securing admission in terms of merits, if so advised.

6. Let this matter appear for compliance by the concerned colleges under the same heading on 23rd June, 2026, at 2.00 p.m.

(Raja Basu Chowdhury, J.)