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भारतीय विधिज्ञ परिषद् BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

(Statutory Body Constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961)

21, Rouse Avenue Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110 002

Press Release dated 30.7.2020

1. Virtual Meeting between Bar Council of India and the Hon'ble Chairman of all State Bar Council on 26.07.2020 and with President/ Secretaries of High Court Bar Associations on 28.07.2020.
2. Postponement of All India Bar Examination -XV

With a view to ameliorate the plight and suffering of Lawyers due to continued suspension of normal Court functioning for the last about five months owing to COVID-19 Pandemic, the Bar Council of India filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court of India against the Union of India making, besides others, the prayer that the Union of India be directed to facilitate financial assistance and/or soft loan of Rs. 3 lakhs each to needy Lawyers. It is heartening to note that on 22.7.2020 in Writ Petition No. 686/2020, the bench of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India Shri Sharad Arvind Bobde not only issued notice of the writ petition filed by the Bar Council of India, but, also took suo-motu cognizance of the miserable condition a huge majority of Lawyers are forced to live in, due to continuing suspension of physical court functioning leading to loss of earning and draining out their financial resources.

It is a matter of common knowledge that a large mass of Lawyers are finding it difficult to make the ends meet and survive. A couple of Lawyers have even committed suicide. With a view to put up a common, joint and synchronized case on behalf of entire legal fraternity of the country, the Bar Council of India had organized a joint meeting of the Bar Council of India with the Hon'ble Chairman of all State Bar Councils by way of video conferencing on 26.07.2020, followed by a joint meeting of the Bar Council of India with Hon'ble President/Secretaries/Representatives of High Court Bar Associations of all States, on 28th July 2020 through video conferencing.

After detailed deliberations and discussions in both joint meetings, it was unanimously resolved separately in both joint meetings of the Bar Council of India with all State Bar Councils and with High Court Bar Associations, that since the aim and object of the Bar Council of India and the State Bar Councils and the High Court Bar Associations are/is one and the same, i.e. to procure financial assistance and help the

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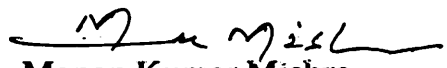
needy Advocates, all State Bar Councils and the participating High Court Bar Associations would authorise Bar Council of India to represent themselves before the Hon'ble Apex Court and that they would furnish Vakalatnama/s authorization to Bar Council of India to represent themselves in both writ petitions for submitting necessary applications/ affidavit/s, so that pleadings on behalf of State Bar Councils and High Court Bar Associations can be uniform with that of Bar Council of India in pursuance of the common object, aim and goal to procure financial assistance for needy advocates from the Union and State Governments and to strengthen the cause of the legal fraternity in this respect, to showcase our unity and solidarity and synchronization in this respect.

The issue of having code of conduct for the members of the Bar Councils being a statutory body was also raised and discussed by certain members of the Bar Councils themselves. It was discussed in detail. The Bar Council of India has framed a code of conduct for all the members of the Bar Councils being statutory post holders prescribing that they have to maintain a code of conduct in matters relating to the Councils.

It was further resolved that each State Bar Council and High Court Bar Associations would furnish short written submissions to the Bar Council of India at the earliest, so that all submissions could be considered by the Bar Council of India, and compiled and placed before the Hon'ble Apex Court by way of a common Affidavit which would comprise the stand of the Bar Council of India, the State Bar Councils and High Court Bar Associations.

The Bar Council of India extends its sincere thanks to all leaders of the Bar from across the country who participated in the virtual meeting and assures that it will leave no stone un-turned to live-up to the expectations and aspirations of the Advocates of the country and do its best to carry the mission forward to the satisfaction of the fraternity.

In another important resolution dated 29.7.2020, keeping in view the present pandemic situation and frequent lockdown, increasing number of corona patients daily, the Council has resolved to postpone the All India Bar Examination to be held on 16.8.2020 and it has further resolved to extend the date of receipt of applications from candidates till 31.8.2020(for the present. The date of examination and other schedules are to be considered and decided by the Monitoring Committee for A.I.B.E. (headed by the Hon'ble former Judge of Supreme Court).


Manan Kumar Mishra
Chairman, Bar Council of India
30/7/2020