



SUPREME COURT BAR ASSOCIATION [Regd.]

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA, TILAK MARG, NEW DELHI-110 201 (INDIA)

Mr. Rakesh Kumar Khanna (Sr.)
President

Mr. Jitendra Mohan Sharma (Sr.)
Vice President

Mr. Vikrant Yadav
Hony. Secretary

Ms. Preeti Singh
Joint Secretary

Mr. Vikas Bansal
Treasurer

Mr. Rohit Pandey
Joint Treasurer

SENIOR EXECUTIVE MEMBERS :

Mr. Jayant K. Sud (Sr.)
Mr. Jana Kalyan Das (Sr.)
Mr. Vinay Kumar Garg (Sr.)
Mr. Manjeet Singh Dalal (Sr.)
Prof. Bhim Singh (Sr.)
Mr. Pradeep Kumar Rai (Sr.)

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS :

Ms. Anjali Chauhan
Ms. Shamsravish Rein
Ms. Sadhana Sandhu
Ms. Mukti Chowdhary
Mr. Aditya Singh
Mr. Amrendra Kumar Singh
Mr. Upendra Mishra
Ms. Sushma Manchanda
Mr. Upendra Narayan Mishra

Preeti Singh

SCBA/EC.2018-19

Dated 05.12.2019

PRESS RELEASE

The minutes of the Emergent Meeting held by the Executive Committee of the Supreme Court Bar Association on Thursday, 5th December 2019 at 1:45 PM in the SCBA Meeting Room situated at the Supreme Court of India, are hereby reproduced as under, where the following was resolved:

Taking note of the reports being promulgated in a section of the media apropos to the incident involving Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Senior Advocate in Court No.3 on 03.12.2019, the Executive Committee of the Supreme Court Bar Association, in its meeting held on 04.12.2019, had consequently resolved that Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Senior Advocate be requested to apprise the Executive Committee about the factual aspects of the said incident.

It is further noted that some senior members of the Bar had mentioned this matter today at 10.30 AM in Court No.3, subsequent to which the Court had called for the President of the Bar. Pursuant thereto, the President appeared before the Court and made the following statement:

"Independence of the judiciary and the Bar are two important facets of the judicial system. We must maintain mutual respect for each other so as to maintain cordial relations. We must all remember what this Hon'ble Court has laid down in the case of BD Gupta Vs. Rama Murthy reported in AIR 1988 SC 283, wherein it was prudently observed that the counsels must have the freedom to present the case fully and properly and should not be interrupted by the judges unless such interruptions are necessary."



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It was also informed to the Court that "the present Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, in his speech delivered by His Lordship at the felicitation function, has himself said that an independent and fearless Bar is necessary for having a robust judicial system" and it was further requested to the Court that "young members of the Bar should not have any fear while addressing the Court."

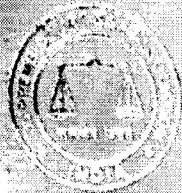
Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Mishra has expressed his unconditional apology to the members of the Bar for any act and/or statement of his, if it has hurt the sentiments of any member of the Bar. His Lordship further added that he had no intention to hurt anyone's sentiments and that he has always been a Bar-friendly judge. His Lordship further said that he was the Chairman of Bar Council of India and understands the predicaments of the members of the Bar. He said that the Bar and Bench must maintain good and healthy relation.

Since, the Hon'ble Judge has shown magnanimity, the issue is put to rest.

That said, the Executive Committee has however observed that some of the contesting candidates/members of the Supreme Court Bar Association have attempted to politicize this issue for their own electoral benefits. Such acts are solemnly deprecated and the contesting candidates/colleagues are advised to refrain from such practices.

Any other matter with the permission of the Chair:

It has been brought to the notice of the Executive Committee that a Press Release dated 04.12.2019 has been issued by Mr. Manan Kumar Mishra, Senior Advocate, Chairman of the Bar Council of India and Mr. S. Prabakaran, Co-Chairman of the Bar Council of India, on the letterhead of Bar Council of India, recording incorrect and inappropriate statements regarding the Supreme Court Bar Association and its members.



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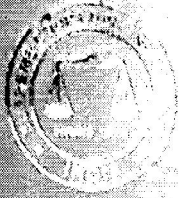
The derisive tone and tenor of the Press Release qua the Supreme Court Bar Association and its Executive Committee is unwarranted and the facts stated therein are incorrect and far from truth. The Executive Committee condemns the same in the strongest words possible. The Executive Committee of the SCBA not only takes a strong objection to it but also deplors the Bar Council of India for interfering with the functioning of the Supreme Court Bar Association Executive Committee. The statements made by the signatories of the aforesaid Press Release pertaining to the functioning and dignity of the members of our Bar as well as the members of the Executive Committee are not only vague and incorrect but are also highly unbecoming of the statutory authority.

In the opening paragraph of the said press release, it has been wrongly recorded that the Executive Committee of the Supreme Court Bar Association has passed some resolution showing concern over the issue pertaining to the matter of the alleged contempt threat advanced to the Senior Advocate Shri Gopal Sankaranarayanan. It is further fallaciously stated therein that the Association has gone upto remind the Hon'ble Judge his duty to maintain decorum of the Court. This statement has been erroneously attributed to the SCBA without verifying the veracity of the same as the same is absolutely incorrect as no such resolution has ever been passed.

The said press release further records as under:

"The elections of Supreme Court Bar Association are going to be held soon, and we need dynamic office bearers who would be able to resolve such matters tactfully in a dignified way and not in a manner to get undue advantage for their own personal gain.

We hope that our new Executive Committee (to be constituted after 12th December,) will act with utmost responsibility and transparency. Bar Council of India wishes a good, active, honest, diligent and responsible Executive Committee to



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come this time. Our experience for past two consecutive terms has been very bad. We are also voters and we appeal to our colleagues in Supreme Court Bar Association to ensure an effective Executive Committee and deserving office bearers this time. The way we see the messages on social medias about some of the office bearers and members of the Committee is really horrible. Before voting, we, the common lawyers, are to keep everything in mind."

The aforesaid statements in the press release regarding electing office bearers of the Executive Committee of the SCBA, passing sarcastic insinuations and making incorrect remarks against the present Executive Committee is condemned in the strongest possible words as the same are mischievous and have been made with oblique purposes. It is not just for the occupants of the offices of the Chairman and Co-Chairman of the Bar Council of India to cast such reckless aspersions upon the members of the Supreme Court Bar Association in general and the Executive Committee (past and present) in particular, without any basis or facts. The statutory authorities should act with utmost care, caution and responsibility in propagating a statement.

The office bearers of the statutory body must refrain themselves from issuing such statements with politically loaded motives, which this press release has intended to do. The Executive Committee strongly condemns the press release dated 04.12.2019 issued by the Bar Council of India, signed by its Chairman and Co-Chairman and requires them to immediately issue a clarificatory statement and also to withdraw its unwarranted remarks and sarcastic insinuations made against the Executive Committee of the SCBA and its members.


PREETI SINGH

Acting Hony. Secretary