

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGSPetition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (C) No(s). 1404/2025

[Arising out of impugned judgment and order dated 08-01-2025 in WP No. 35836/2024 passed by the High Court of Karnataka at Bengaluru]

DEEKSHA N AMRUTHESH

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF KARNATAKA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 23442/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 23424/2025 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 25717/2025 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 23659/2025 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT and IA No. 13494/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES)

WITH

SLP(C) No. 1808/2025 (IV-A)
(IA No. 16750/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)SLP(C) No. 1910/2025 (IV-A)
(IA No. 17921/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT and IA No. 17923/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES)

Date : 13-03-2026 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

For Petitioner(s) : Mrs. Lakshmy Iyengar, Sr. Adv.

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For Respondent(s) : Mr. Aman Panwar, A.A.G.
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Ms. Kanimozhi J., Adv.

Mr. Ahanthem Henry, Adv.
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Mr. Kumar Mihir, AOR

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

1. The issue that arises for consideration in this batch of matters pertains to ensuring 30% representation for women lawyers as Office Bearers or Executive Members in every Bar Association, including at Taluka or District levels and specialised bodies like Tax and RERA, as well as High Court Bar Associations. It may be noted that such representation has already been achieved with the active support of Bar members in the Supreme Court Bar Association. In some High Courts, such as the Delhi High Court, Bar members have been very supportive and have graciously ensured representation, resulting in many such Bar Associations implementing our order dated 24.03.2025.

2. However, it was brought to our notice that in some States, the benefit of representation for women members was not percolating at different types of Bar Associations such as Tax, RERA, NGT, DRT, as well as at the sub-divisional level. Therefore, this Court vide order dated 16.01.2026, sought a report from the Registrar Generals of all the High Courts with a commitment to ensure adequate representation from all the Bar Associations. A separate direction was issued to the Registrar General of the High Court of Karnataka, along with other Registrar Generals, to submit a status report on the representation of women advocates in the governing/executive bodies of the various Bar Associations.

3. In deference thereto, the Registrar Generals of 13 High Courts have submitted their compliance reports. They have addressed issues such as: (i) whether the Bar Associations in their jurisdictions have adequate representation of women in the executive body, (ii) whether the Bar Associations have included a requirement of 30% representation for women, and (iii) what remedial measures have been implemented where the directions issued by this Court could not be complied with.

4. Be that as it may, 12 High Courts are yet to send their responses/compliance reports.

5. We, accordingly, direct the remaining 12 High Courts to firstly ensure that, within all Bar Associations in their respective jurisdictions, at least 30% of the members of the Bar involved in the election of the governing or executive body of such Bar Associations are women. However, where the number of women lawyers enrolled with such Bar Associations falls significantly short of 30%, those available may serve on their governing body.

6. Where there are enough women members and, for some reason, they could not contest the election, the District Judges are hereby authorised to nominate women members to the executive committee of the respective Bar Associations within their jurisdiction and submit a compliance report to the Registrar General of the High Court. The Registrar General will then collate these reports and forward them to this Court.

7. We emphasise that these directions must be followed, especially since our experience shows that most of the Bar Associations across the country have wholeheartedly accepted the

policy decision made by this Court on the judicial side. In any case, if there are any reservations at the level of a particular subdivision or district, those details must be forwarded to this Court for appropriate directions based on the peculiar facts and circumstances of the case. The Registrar Generals of the 12 High Courts, who have not yet submitted a compliance report, are instructed to do so within two weeks.

8. Post this matter for further consideration on 17.04.2026.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI T.C.)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR