



भारतीय विधिज्ञ परिषद् BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

(Statutory Body Constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961)

21, Rouse Avenue Institutional Area, Near Bal Bhawan, New Delhi - 110002

BCI:D: 1452 / 2026

Date:11.03.2026

To,

The Vice-Chancellors of all Universities imparting Legal Education

The Registrars of all Universities imparting Legal Education

The Deans/Heads of Faculty/Departments/Schools of Law of all Universities imparting Legal Education

The Directors/Principals/Heads of all Centres of Legal Education approved by the Bar Council of India

The Secretaries of all State Bar Councils

Sub.: Compliance with the directions flowing from the Office Memorandum dated 05.02.2026 forwarding the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India order dated 15.01.2026 in *Amit Kumar & Ors. v. Union of India & Ors.*, 2026 INSC 62, and reiteration of mandatory obligations concerning student well-being, suicide prevention, anti-ragging, student grievance redressal, counselling, anti-discrimination, gender sensitisation, and institutional support systems in legal education institutions

Sir(s)/Madam(s),

1. The Bar Council of India has received the Office Memorandum dated 05.02.2026 issued by the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, forwarding the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 15.01.2026 in *Amit Kumar & Ors. v. Union of India & Ors.*, and requesting necessary action on the basis of the directions contained therein, along with monthly status/action reporting.
2. The Bar Council of India is the apex statutory body under Section 4 of the Advocates Act, 1961, and is entrusted, inter alia, with the duty to promote legal education and to lay down standards of such education under Sections 7(1)(h), 7(1)(i), and the rule-making power under Section 49 of the Advocates Act, 1961.
3. The Rules of Legal Education, 2008 remain binding on all Universities imparting legal education and all Centres of Legal Education. Rule 33 expressly provides that every University / Center of Legal Education shall take appropriate measures to prevent ragging in any form with a standing Committee appointed for the purpose from among faculty and student representation, and that any incident of ragging must be dealt with very seriously and appropriate stringent action be taken.

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4. It is further reiterated that the Bar Council of India has already issued **Circular No. BCI:D:2382/2024 (LE-Circular-14) dated 22.11.2024** for establishing Student Grievance Redressal Committees for Centres of Legal Education, and the same shall be read together with the present circular. The compliance regime already in force also records that CLEs must maintain a Student Grievance Redressal Cell in compliance with **BCI:D:2382/2024**, maintain records of complaints and actions taken, submit an annual report to the governing body, and make the same available to BCI during inspections.
5. The comprehensive compliance affidavit attached with provisional approval and Standing Committee approval communications already requires continuing compliance by Centres of Legal Education with BCI circulars, directives and guidelines, and further requires grievance-related record maintenance, anti-ragging compliance, and production of records during inspections. (<https://www.barcouncilofindia.org/info/notifications/all-noty>)
6. The present circular is, therefore, being issued to ensure immediate, visible, verifiable, and continuing compliance in the field of legal education. For purposes of **periodic monthly consolidation**, the affiliating University shall act as the nodal consolidating authority for affiliated Centres of Legal Education. However, for **serious incidents**, the concerned institution shall remain directly responsible for immediate reporting and action.
7. This circular is supplemental in nature. It shall be read in continuation of the Rules of Legal Education, 2008, the existing BCI circulars and guidelines, the conditions contained in approval letters, the comprehensive compliance affidavit, and all other applicable legal and regulatory obligations.
8. It is further clarified that the present circular is issued as part of the regulatory and supervisory framework governing legal education and institutional compliance and shall operate in addition to, and not in derogation of, any applicable statutory enactment, rule, regulation, governmental direction, judicial direction, or regulatory framework governing matters relating to student welfare, ragging prevention, grievance redressal, gender sensitisation, discrimination, institutional discipline, or related fields. Nothing contained in this circular shall be construed as limiting, diluting, superseding, or overriding the operation of any applicable statute, statutory rule, regulation, judicial direction, or governmental guideline in force in the relevant field. The absence of any specific reference in this circular to a particular statutory requirement or regulatory obligation shall not be interpreted as a ground to ignore, dilute, or avoid compliance with such statutory or regulatory obligations, all of which shall continue to apply with full force.

Accordingly, the following directions are hereby issued for strict compliance.

I. Dedicated BCI reporting channel

1. A dedicated reporting email ID is hereby notified for all direct submissions to the Bar Council of India under this circular: studentwellbeing@barcouncilofindia.org
2. All reports required to be submitted directly to the Bar Council of India under this circular shall be sent only to the aforesaid email ID.
3. The submission protocol, subject format, indexing requirements, mandatory supporting documents, and reporting formats shall form an integral part of this circular and shall stand annexed hereto as **Annexure I** and **Annexure II**.

II. Immediate reporting of suicide, attempted suicide, or unnatural death

1. Every University imparting legal education and every Centre of Legal Education shall ensure that any incident of suicide, attempted suicide, or unnatural death of a student, whether occurring on campus, in hostel facilities, in paying guest accommodation, or otherwise in connection with the course of study, is reported immediately to the jurisdictional police authorities, without suppression, delay, dilution, or internal substitution of the legal process.
2. In addition to reporting to the police authorities, every such incident shall be reported forthwith to the Bar Council of India at the aforesaid dedicated email ID.
3. In the case of an affiliated Centre of Legal Education, a copy of such immediate report shall simultaneously be sent to the affiliating University.
4. The obligation under this clause is direct, immediate, and institution-specific. It shall not be postponed on the ground that a later monthly consolidated report will be sent by the University.

III. Nodal Officer for Student Well-Being, Crisis Response, and Compliance

1. Every University and every Centre of Legal Education shall designate a senior responsible officer, not below the rank of Registrar, Principal, Director, Dean, or equivalent, as the **Nodal Officer for Student Well-Being, Crisis Response, and Compliance**.
2. The Nodal Officer shall be responsible for
 - (a) immediate crisis response,
 - (b) referral and medical coordination,
 - (c) compliance with police intimation obligations,
 - (d) preservation of records,
 - (e) communication with authorities,
 - (f) institutional follow-up, and
 - (g) preparation and transmission of compliance records.
3. The name, designation, mobile number, and email address of the Nodal Officer shall be displayed on the website and on student notice boards.

IV. Mandatory committees and institutional mechanisms

1. Every University and every Centre of Legal Education shall ensure the active constitution, formal notification, and effective functioning of the following:
 - (a) Anti-Ragging Committee,
 - (b) Anti-Ragging Squad,
 - (c) Student Grievance Redressal Committee / Student Grievance Redressal Cell,
 - (d) Internal Complaints Committee or other legally compliant complaint-handling mechanism for sexual harassment and gender-based grievances,
 - (e) Anti-Discrimination / Equal Opportunity mechanism, wherever applicable,
 - (f) Counselling and Wellness Centre or documented referral arrangement,
 - (g) Internal oversight mechanism for mental health and student-support review.

2. These bodies shall not remain merely formal or paper-based. They must be identifiable, accessible, publicly notified, and function in a fair, time-bound, confidential, and non-retaliatory manner.
3. Their composition, contact details, complaint channels, and basic procedure shall be published on the institution's website, notice boards, and student-facing materials.

V. Anti-ragging compliance

1. Anti-ragging compliance is a statutory obligation under Rule 33 of the Rules of Legal Education, 2008, binding on every University and Centre of Legal Education.
2. Every Centre of Legal Education shall ensure
 - (a) constitution and effective functioning of an Anti-Ragging Committee,
 - (b) constitution and effective functioning of an Anti-Ragging Squad,
 - (c) mandatory anti-ragging undertakings from every student, co-signed by the parent or guardian,
 - (d) availability of a 24×7 anti-ragging helpline and online complaint mechanism,
 - (e) awareness programmes and visible publication of anti-ragging policy, penalties, complaint channels, and such institution-level anti-ragging information and non-confidential statistics as may be legally permissible, and
 - (f) prompt reporting of any incident, if any, to the Bar Council of India, the affiliating University, and the law enforcement authorities.
3. The anti-ragging framework shall be implemented not only in compliance with Rule 33 of the Rules of Legal Education, 2008, but also in consonance with the principles flowing from the law declared by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India concerning prevention, prohibition, monitoring, reporting, and strict institutional response to ragging and allied forms of student abuse, intimidation, humiliation, or coercion.
4. Every University shall monitor anti-ragging compliance across all affiliated Centres of Legal Education and shall ensure immediate rectification of deficiencies.
5. Every institution shall ensure that anti-ragging measures are real, accessible, visible, and continuously enforced, and do not remain merely formal, episodic, or paper-based.

VI. Student Grievance Redressal mechanism

1. Every Centre of Legal Education shall constitute and maintain a functional Student Grievance Redressal Committee / Cell in accordance with BCI:D:2382/2024 (LE-Circular-14) dated 22.11.2024 and the present circular.
2. The compliance framework already in force requires that the SGRC be maintained in compliance with BCI guidelines, that it address academic, administrative, infrastructural, and connected student grievances, that it provide accessible complaint channels, and that it maintain detailed records of all complaints and actions taken.

3. The SGRC shall be constituted and shall function in accordance with the composition, representational requirements, procedural safeguards, and institutional responsibilities already prescribed by the Bar Council of India from time to time, and shall remain accessible, identifiable, fair, time-bound, confidential, and non-retaliatory in its operation.
4. Every Centre of Legal Education shall ensure the availability of both online and offline grievance submission channels, proper maintenance of grievance registers and digital records, timely consideration and disposal of complaints, and institutional safeguards against retaliation, victimisation, intimidation, academic prejudice, or administrative harassment for filing any grievance.
5. Every Centre of Legal Education shall continue to maintain the annual reporting discipline required under the SGRC framework and the compliance regime, independently of the monthly consolidated reporting arrangement under the present circular, and shall ensure that such records and reports remain available for scrutiny by the Bar Council of India during inspection, review, or follow-up.
6. Every University shall supervise compliance of affiliated Centres of Legal Education with the SGRC framework, note deficiencies, issue corrective directions, and reflect the same in the consolidated reports sent to the Bar Council of India.

VII. Counselling, empathy, mental health, and student-support systems

1. Every Centre of Legal Education shall promote a culture of empathy, psychological well-being, mutual respect, dignity, kindness, inclusion, and supportive institutional functioning.
2. The compliance framework already requires that grievance mechanisms be strengthened for psychological and emotional issues, that stakeholders adopt a non-discriminatory and non-judgmental approach, and that periodic independent audits of counselling and wellness services be undertaken through an internal mental health oversight mechanism.
3. Every institution shall ensure
 - (a) establishment and effective functioning of a Counselling and Wellness Centre, or a documented and reliable referral arrangement with qualified counsellors, psychologists, psychiatrists, or other appropriately qualified mental health professionals, as applicable,
 - (b) periodic sensitisation on emotional well-being, kindness, empathy, inclusivity, and respectful campus conduct,
 - (c) responsive, accessible, and confidential support channels for psychological and emotional concerns,
 - (d) periodic review of the effectiveness of student-support systems, including through an internal oversight mechanism for mental health and wellness support,
 - (e) incorporation, wherever feasible, of student well-being, emotional resilience, empathy, help-seeking awareness, and support information in induction, orientation, or similar student-entry programmes, and
 - (f) periodic sensitisation of faculty members, wardens, mentors, administrative staff, and other institutional functionaries on mentoring responsibilities, early identification of student distress,

crisis referral, and supportive, non-stigmatising engagement with students.

4. Every institution shall ensure that its student-support framework operates in a non-discriminatory, non-judgmental, and student-sensitive manner, and that counselling, referral, and wellness support mechanisms are known, reachable, and capable of timely activation in situations of stress, vulnerability, crisis, or emotional difficulty.

VIII. Gender sensitisation and complaint-handling safeguards

1. Every institution shall ensure a safe, dignified, respectful, and gender-sensitive environment for students, interns, faculty members, staff, women students, and transgender persons.
2. Every institution shall maintain a legally compliant complaint-handling mechanism for sexual harassment and gender-based grievances, together with continuing sensitisation, confidentiality, fair inquiry, and protection against retaliation.
3. This circular shall be read along with the profession-specific BCI guidelines already issued in that regard.

IX. Initial Compliance Report

1. Every affiliated Centre of Legal Education shall submit its **Initial Compliance Report** to its affiliating University within the period prescribed by the University, and in any case within the time-frame notified under this circular.
2. The Initial Compliance Report shall include, at a minimum
 - (a) details of all committees and support mechanisms,
 - (b) copies of office orders constituting them,
 - (c) details of the Nodal Officer,
 - (d) counselling and referral arrangements,
 - (e) anti-ragging compliance details,
 - (f) SGRC compliance details,
 - (g) gender sensitisation and complaint-handling compliance details,and
 - (h) deficiencies identified and the time-bound rectification plan.
3. Every University shall scrutinise such reports and shall submit to the Bar Council of India a **consolidated Initial Compliance Report** covering
 - (a) the University's own law faculty/department/school/centre, wherever applicable, and
 - (b) all affiliated Centres of Legal Education under its jurisdiction.
4. National Law Universities, Deemed Universities, unitary law universities, and University Departments not functioning through an affiliation structure shall submit their Initial Compliance Report directly to the Bar Council of India.

X. Monthly Action Taken Report

1. Every affiliated Centre of Legal Education shall submit a **Monthly Action Taken Report** to its affiliating University within the time fixed by the University so as to enable timely consolidation and forwarding.

2. Every University shall examine the Monthly Action Taken Reports received from affiliated Centres of Legal Education, identify deficiencies, issue corrective directions where required, and prepare a consolidated Monthly Action Taken Report for submission to the Bar Council of India.
3. The consolidated Monthly Action Taken Report of the University shall cover
 - (a) the University's own law faculty/department/school/centre, wherever applicable,
 - (b) all affiliated Centres of Legal Education,
 - (c) institution-wise deficiencies noticed,
 - (d) corrective directions issued by the University, and
 - (e) action taken status.
4. The Monthly Action Taken Report shall include, in broad terms
 - (a) measures implemented during the month,
 - (b) awareness and sensitisation programmes conducted,
 - (c) complaints received and status of redressal,
 - (d) anti-ragging measures taken,
 - (e) student grievance redressal steps taken,
 - (f) counselling and mental health initiatives undertaken,
 - (g) deficiencies rectified or pending,
 - (h) serious incidents, if any, and immediate response taken in a legally permissible manner, and
 - (i) any clarification or assistance required.
5. Every University shall submit the consolidated Monthly Action Taken Report to the Bar Council of India by the **7th day of every succeeding month**.
6. The purpose of this arrangement is to place the administrative burden of monthly compilation, scrutiny, and forwarding upon the affiliating University, while preserving continuing institutional accountability at the level of each individual Centre of Legal Education.

XI. Continuing responsibility of each Centre of Legal Education

1. Notwithstanding the submission of consolidated reports by the University, each affiliated Centre of Legal Education shall remain independently responsible for
 - (a) correctness of the information furnished by it,
 - (b) completeness of disclosures,
 - (c) maintenance of records,
 - (d) timely submission to the affiliating University, and
 - (e) compliance with all BCI Rules, circulars, guidelines, approval conditions, and legal obligations.
2. Failure of the University to forward a consolidated report shall not, by itself, absolve a defaulting Centre of Legal Education of its own obligations under the Rules of Legal Education, 2008, approval conditions, and the present circular.

XII. Direct power of the Bar Council of India to call for information

1. Notwithstanding anything contained herein, the Bar Council of India may, at any time, call upon any University or any Centre of Legal Education to

- submit a direct report, explanation, affidavit, record, or compliance material.
2. Upon such requisition, the University or the Centre of Legal Education concerned shall comply directly and forthwith.
 3. This power may be exercised generally, selectively, institution-wise, incident-wise, during inspection, or during any scrutiny, review, or follow-up proceedings.

XIII. Record maintenance

1. Every Centre of Legal Education shall maintain proper grievance-wise, complaint-wise, and incident-wise records concerning anti-ragging, student grievances, serious incidents, counselling referrals, and institutional response.
2. Such records shall be preserved in a manner capable of verification and shall be produced whenever called for by the Bar Council of India or during inspection.
3. The compliance affidavit regime already requires such records to be maintained and made available to BCI during inspections.

XIV. Consequences of non-compliance

1. Non-compliance, incomplete compliance, false compliance, token compliance, non-functional committees, suppression of material facts, or failure to maintain and produce records shall be treated as serious regulatory concerns affecting the maintenance of standards of legal education.
2. The Bar Council of India shall be at liberty to consider such default while dealing with
 - (a) approval,
 - (b) continuation of approval,
 - (c) recognition,
 - (d) inspection,
 - (e) admission-related permissions,
 - (f) future applications, and
 - (g) any other regulatory action permissible in law.
3. The compliance framework already in force records that non-compliance with BCI circulars and mandated systems may attract strict action, including withdrawal or revocation of approval or affiliation and other legal consequences.
4. The affiliating University shall also be expected to take supervisory and corrective action in respect of defaulting affiliated Centres of Legal Education.

XV. Enclosures and Annexures

The following shall be attached with and read as part of this circular:


1. **Annexure I** - Submission Protocol, Email Format, Indexing Requirements, and Mandatory Document Checklist.

2. **Annexure II** - Prescribed Format of the Initial Compliance Report and Monthly Action Taken Report.
3. Letter dated 18.02.2025 issued by Ministry of Law & Justice forwarding the Office Memorandum dated 05.02.2026 issued by the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, forwarding the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 15.01.2026 in *Amit Kumar & Ors. v. Union of India & Ors.*, 2026 INSC 62.
4. Circular No. **BCI:D:2382/2024 (LE-Circular-14)** dated **22.11.2024** concerning Student Grievance Redressal Committees for Centres of Legal Education.
5. Guidelines regarding The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013) for Bar Associations, Law Offices, State Bar Councils and Bar Council of India

XVI. Publicity and Institutional Communication

Every University and every Centre of Legal Education shall ensure that the contents of the present circular, the institutional mechanisms referred to herein, and the available complaint and support channels are given wide publicity within the institution. The circular and the institutional details relating to anti-ragging mechanisms, grievance redressal mechanisms, counselling and wellness support, nodal officer details, and relevant complaint channels shall be prominently displayed on institutional notice boards, including notice boards located in hostels, libraries, common rooms, and other common student areas. The same shall also be published on the official website of the institution and shall be communicated to students, faculty members, wardens, mentors, and administrative staff through institutional email systems, student communication platforms, and other commonly used communication channels, including officially maintained messaging groups where such systems exist. Every institution shall ensure that newly admitted students are specifically informed of these mechanisms during orientation or induction programmes and that the information remains continuously accessible to the student community.

This circular shall come into force with immediate effect.


Srimanto Sen
Principal Secretary
Bar Council of India

Copy to:
All State Bar Councils