

2025 LiveLaw (SC) 940

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
J.B. PARDIWALA; J., SANDEEP MEHTA; J.
Writ Petition(Civil) No.288/2025; 02-09-2025

SANYAM GANDHI *versus* UNION OF INDIA & ANR.

All India Bar Examination (AIBE) - Supreme Court dismissed a petition challenging Rs. 3,500 free and other incidental charges levied by the Bar council of India (BCI) for the AIBE - Bar Councils cannot charge more than a statutorily prescribed Rs. 750 for enrolment - *Gaurav Kumar* case would apply in so far as enrolment fees are concerned - Bar Council of India would incur huge expenses for the purpose of conducting of such examination and if they are charging Rs. 3,500/- and Rs. 2,500/-, it cannot be termed as violative of any of the provisions of the Constitution or any of the provisions of the Advocates Act - Petition dismissed. [Relied on *Gaurav Kumar v. Union of India*, [2024 LiveLaw \(SC\) 519](#); Paras 2-5]

For Petitioner(s): Petitioner-in-person

For Respondent(s): Mr. S.D. Sanjay, A.S.G. Mr. Anmol Chandan, Adv. Mr. Mayank Pandey, Adv. Mr. Harshita Choubey, Adv. Mr. B.K.Aatija, Adv. Ms. Seema Bengani, Adv. Dr. N. Visakamurthy, AOR Mr. Guru Krishna Kumar, Sr. Adv. Dr. Ram Sankar, Adv. Mrs. Harini Ramsankar, Adv. For M/s.Ram Sankar & Co, AOR

ORDER

1. Application seeking permission to appear and argue-in-person is allowed.
2. Heard Mr. Sanyam Gandhi, the petitioner appearing in-person & Mr. Guru Krishna Kumar, the learned Senior counsel appearing for the Bar Council of India.
3. The subject matter of challenge in the present Writ Petition is the fee being charged by the Bar Council of India for the purpose of conducting the All India Bar Examination to the tune of Rs.3,500/- from the General/OBC candidates and Rs.2500/- and other incidental charges from the SC/ST candidates. This charging of the fees, according to the petitioner, violates Section 24(1) (f) of the Advocates Act, 1961 and also infringes Articles 19(1)(g) and 14 respectively of the Constitution of India.
4. He would submit that the Bar Council cannot charge such fees in light of the decision rendered by this Court in the case of “*Gaurav Kumar vs. Union of India*”.
5. We may only say that the decision in the case of *Gaurav Kumar* would apply in so far as the enrollment fees are concerned. Here is a case where the issue is with regard to charging of fees for the conduct of the All India Bar Examination. The petitioner should understand that the Bar Council of India would incur huge expenses for the purpose of conducting of such examination and if they are charging Rs.3500/- and Rs.2500/- respectively, as referred to above, it cannot be termed as violative of any of the provisions of the Constitution of India or any of the provisions of the Advocates Act.
6. In view of the above, the Writ Petition stands disposed of.
7. Pending applications, if any, also stand disposed of.