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PART I—Orders and Notifications by the Governor of West Bengal, the High Court, Government Treasury, etc.

BAR COUNCIL OF WEST BENGAL**NOTIFICATION****No. 03/2026****Dated, 11.02.2026**

Whereas vide Notification No. 1/2026 dated 09.01.2026 notice of the 12th elections of Bar Council of West Bengal in compliance of the order dated 18.11.2025 and all subsequent orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition(s) (Civil) Nos. 1319/2023 was published;

And whereas the Notification No. 1/2026 dated 09.01.2026 was amended by a further Notification No. 2/2026 dated 17.01.2026 in terms of the provisions of the Bar Council of India Rules (for Qualification/Disqualification and Produce for Election and Code of Conduct for the Elections of S.B.C/B.C.I) 2023 as published vide Notification F. No. BCI: D: 3429/2023 dated 23.06.2023;

And whereas vide Notification No. 01/2026 dated 09.01.2026 the dates for the elections of the 12th Bar Council of West Bengal Election were tentatively scheduled on 05.03.2026 and 06.03.2026 with the condition that in the event of exigency, the Returning Officer shall re-fix the Polling Booths, dates and time of elections;

And whereas the High-Powered Election Committee have been informed by the State Administration that adequate police force may not be available on the scheduled dates of poll (i.e. 05.03.2026 & 06.03.2026) since 03.03.2026 and 04.03.2026 are the dates for celebrating 'Holi' when additional police deployment is made throughout the State for law and order duty and it may not be possible for adequate police deployment on the scheduled dates of poll;

And whereas the Returning Officer has also received representations from several Bar Associations requesting for shifting the dates of poll since those are immediately after dates of 'Holi' celebration, which would create difficulties in making the polling stations poll ready by setting up adequate number of polling booths;

And whereas having considered the two fold difficulties, noted above, the High Powered Election Committee unanimously decided to change the dates of poll from 05.03.2026 and 06.03.2026 to 09.03.2026 and 10.03.2026;

And whereas The High Powered Election Committee also took into consideration substantial increase in the number of voters from 2018 to 2026 and decided to increase the voting time and accordingly fixed the time of poll from 10 am to 6 pm instead of 10 am to 5 pm;

Accordingly, upon modification of the Notification No. 01/2026 dated 09.01.2026, the polling dates of elections of the 12th Bar Council of West Bengal are re-scheduled to 09.03.2026 and 10.03.2026 and the voting time is changed to 10 am to 6 pm instead of 10 am to 5 pm.

SAGAR BANDYOPADHYAY, Senior Advocate

Returning Officer