

Minutes of Meeting dated 21.04.2026 of the High-Powered Election Supervisory Committee constituted by the Supreme Court order dated 18.11.2025 in W.P (C) No. 1319/2023

Vide order dated 08.12.2025 in W.P(C) No. 581/2024, the Supreme Court had ordered that 30% of the total seats in each State Bar Council shall be represented by women members of the Bar. Out of these 30% seats, 20% were to be filled by election of women candidates, and the remaining 10% seats by way of co-option. However, no method for co-option was prescribed and it was directed that proposals regarding co-option be placed before the Supreme Court of India.

Thereafter, the Bar Council of India framed certain Rules regarding the co-option of women candidates and the same were challenged before the Supreme Court. Consequently, vide order dated 24.02.2026 passed in certain I.As in W.P(C) No.1319/2026, Supreme Court sought this Committee's opinion regarding the Rules framed by the Bar Council of India as regards co-option.

Meanwhile, another Writ Petition [W.P(C) No. 372/2026] was filed before the Supreme Court with the same issue regarding co-option of women candidates in the State Bar Councils. The Supreme Court, vide its order dated 13.04.2026, asked this Committee to pass an appropriate order prescribing the manner in which the exercise of co-option shall take place. The relevant portion of the said order dated 13.04.2026 reads as follows: