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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

Certified Copy of the Resolution passed by General Council of Bar Council of India by way of circulation on 12.06.2025

The practice of law in India is a professional vocation rooted in fiduciary and ethical responsibilities and is regulated under Entries 77 and 78 of the Union List. It is not regarded as a commercial trade or business activity. In this context, the Bar Council of India, in the year 2025, notified the amended Rules for Registration and Regulation of Foreign Lawyers and Foreign Law Firms in India, 2022. These Rules are intended to govern the limited presence of foreign lawyers and law firms in India, strictly confining their scope to the practice of foreign law and international law in a non-litigious. They explicitly prohibit engagement in Indian law, whether in litigious or non-litigious capacity matters, and are framed in accordance with the principles of reciprocity and the fundamental framework of professional regulation.

Certain apprehensions have been raised by few Indian Law Firms. The BCI is committed to safeguarding the rights, interests and privileges of the Indian Bar, under Section 7 (1) (d), of the Advocates Act, 1961, which includes Indian Law firms, while promoting clarity and coherence in regulatory enforcement.

Accordingly, a committee is constituted to examine the concerns raised, and to recommend practical clarifications or additions within the framework of the current Rules.

The terms of reference of the committee are as follows-

1. To assess the implementation of the objectives of the Rules and suggest any measures necessary to enhance their clarity, consistency, or efficacy.
2. To propose safeguards to prevent foreign lawyers or firms from circumventing restrictions and engaging, directly or indirectly, in the practice of Indian law through structures such as alliances, referrals or partnerships.



3. To identify the requirements necessary to ensure that Indian law firms are not competitively disadvantaged during the current transition, and to recommend enabling measures, such as in training, technology, infrastructure, and strategic growth, that would strengthen their capacity and to propose targeted measures that preserve and safeguard the interests of Indian law firms during the transition period, supporting their gradual evolution toward global competitiveness.
4. To evaluate the need for providing Indian law firms with comparable flexibility in areas such as firm structure, access to capital, and operational models, to ensure parity with their foreign counterparts and to recommend measures that establish a level playing field for Indian lawyers thereby enabling them to advance and grow their practice on equal footing with foreign law firms. Furthermore, to suggest actionable steps and create an enabling environment that empowers Indian law firms to effectively pursue their global aspirations and compete successfully in the international arena, while remaining within professional and constitutional boundaries.
5. To uphold the professional character of law practice in India by reaffirming that legal services are personal services rooted in fiduciary responsibility, client trust, and duties to the court, and not subject to norms of commercial enterprise.
6. To conduct consultations with law firms, to gather inputs on the impact, structure, and implementation of the Rules.
7. To address any other related matter that may arise during the committee's deliberations, keeping in view the spirit and/or implementation of the Rules.

The Committee shall consist of the following members:

1. Mr. Cyril Shroff, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas
2. Mr. Ajay Bahl, AZB & Partners
3. Mr. Suhail Nathani, ELP
4. Mr. Sandip Bhagat, S&R Associates
5. Mr. Mahesh Agarwal, Agarwal Law Associates
6. Mr. Amit Kapur, JSA

The Principal Secretary, BCI, Mr. Srimanto Sen shall act as the Convenor of the Committee.



The Committee shall be chaired by Mr. Cyril Shroff with the approval of Mr. Manan Kumar Mishra, Chairman, Bar Council of India who shall be a special invitee to the committee.

From time to time, the Chairman, Bar Council of India may nominate any of its members, representatives of any foreign or Indian law firms, Senior Lawyers, former judges or other experts as special invitees to assist the Committee in its deliberations.

The aforementioned Rules, having been duly notified and published in the Gazette, remain fully in force and this Committee's mandate is not to stay or suspend their operation, but rather to further assess their implementation and address the apprehensions of these few Indian law firms in a constructive and consultative manner.

The meetings of the committee shall be held in the premises of the Bar Council of India.

It is further resolved that the Bar Council of India shall consider the report of the committee and take the final decision after due deliberation and consultation with esteemed Indian and foreign law firms at the earliest. The meeting of the law firms will be endeavoured to be held in India in the month of August, 2025. The Council requests the committee to submit its report within a period of 30-40 days.

Certified to be true copy



Awanish Kumar Pandey

