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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ W.P.(C) 3646/2025, CM APPL. 17024/2025, CM APPL. 20920/2025,
CM APPL. 22610/2025, CM APPL. 32425/2025 & CM APPL.
40471/2025

VIPIN KUMAR SHARMA & Ors.

.....Petitioners

Through: Mr. Pradeep Sharma, Mr. Saneep Singh, Mr. Vipin Kumar Sharma (Petitioner in person), Mr. Bipin Dubey (Petitioner in person), Mr. Harshit Jain, Mr. Vinod Kumar, Mr. M. Minal Mehdi and Mr. S.K. Rout, Advs.

M: 9899696333

Mr. Mahmood Pracha, Adv. for P-4

Mr. Santosh Singh Barthwal
Petitioner no. 8 in person (Through VC)

Mob: 9971468838

Email: santoshbarthwal@gmail.com

Mr. Sudhir Kumar, Mr. Anurag Rawat and Mr. Manish Kumar, Advs. for Petitioner-Vipin.

Mob: 9811309103

Mr. S.K. Rout, Mr. Aman Mehrotra, Mr. Rahul Kumar, Ms. Alka Singh, Mr. Alka Singh, Ms. Parwmita Nath and Ms. Prabarini Pradhan, Advs.

Mob: 9971754754

Email: routsantoshk@gmail.com

versus

THE RETURNING OFFICER NDBA ELECTIONS, 2025 & Ors.

.....Respondents



Through: Mr. Rajiv Talwar, Mr. S. Shantanu
and Mr. Pradeep Shankar, Advs. for
R-1
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Ms. Padma Priya, Ms. Poornima
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Mr. Karan Chawla, Advs. for R-9,
along with R-9 in person.
Mr. Sunny Pandey, Mr. Sachin, Mr.
Palash, Mr. Pradeep Singh and Mr.
M.M. Khan, Advs. for R-11
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Mr. Navneet Ramman, R-10 in person
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Mr. Nagendra Kumar for R-8 in
person
M: 9810098502
Ms. Pallavi Pawaskar Adv. for
Respondent-Naveen Kapila (Through
VC)
Mr. Rajiv Talwar, Adv. for RO
(Through VC)
Ms. Anamika (R-18 in person)
Mob: 9891424691



CORAM:
HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE MINI PUSHKARNA

ORDER
15.12.2025

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1. At the outset, this Court takes note of the Facebook post which is posted by petitioner no. 8 – Mr. Santosh Singh Barthwal, Advocate, wherein, he has made statements in relation to the present matter, stating that the judgment in the present case is in their favour, and he has gained knowledge of the dictation of the judgment, through certain reliable sources.
2. Petitioner no. 8 is not present today.
3. Accordingly, the other petitioners who are present in Court, including, their counsels are directed to inform petitioner no. 8 – Mr. Santosh Singh Barthwal, Advocate, to appear before this Court, physically tomorrow, positively.
4. It is made clear that if petitioner no. 8 – Mr. Santosh Singh Barthwal, Advocate, does not appear before this Court tomorrow, this Court shall be constrained to issue Bailable Warrant against him.
5. At later point of time, petitioner no. 8 – Mr. Santosh Singh Barthwal, Advocate, has physically appeared before this Court.
6. This Court has taken a very serious view of this issue. An advocate by profession is bound by the rules and regulations of the Bar Council of India and has a bounden duty to maintain decorum in and out of the Court. The action undertaken by petitioner no. 8, who is an advocate, by making a public post with the tenor of mendacity, as in the present case, is to say the least, an irresponsible act on part of a party to a proceeding, much less an advocate. Posts on social media platforms, wherein, a good cause can be



espoused, are being clearly misused by an advocate, imputing that a judgment would be delivered in their favor, and stating that dictation of the judgment is under knowledge through alleged reliable sources, when the hearing in the case is still underway.

7. The prejudicial action of Mr. Santosh Singh Barthwal, Advocate, and the serious consequences of an advocate concocting having any such knowledge as suggested in the Facebook post, and in doing so, making the same public, is a grave infraction towards the dignity of the Court.

8. The Court was inclined to initiate contempt proceedings against Mr. Santosh Singh Barthwal, Advocate and also refer the matter to the Bar Council of India, however, the said counsel, along with the other counsels, who are appearing before this Court for the petitioners, have profusely apologized before this Court and have tendered unconditional apology.

9. Though this Court is not inclined to accept the said apology, considering the nature of the dispute before this Court, the apology is accepted. Be that as it may, Mr. Santosh Singh Barthwal, Advocate, is cautioned and directed not to circulate any such posts or false information on social media or public platforms, which affect the dignity of the Court in any manner.

10. Arguments have been completed on behalf of the respondents.

11. Mr. Mahmood Pracha learned counsel for the petitioner no. 4, has also been heard.

12. Mr. Pradeep Sharma, learned counsel for petitioner no. 3, submits that he may be granted some time to make his rebuttal submissions on behalf of petitioner no. 3.

13. All the parties are directed to file their written submissions in the



Registry, and also before this Court by 22nd December, 2025.

14. For rebuttal arguments on behalf of Mr. Pradeep Sharma, re-notify on 17th December, 2025.

MINI PUSHKARNA, J

DECEMBER 15, 2025/Kr/HC