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SUPREME COURT

SC Tells State Bar Councils

No More “Optional” Fees Masquerading as Voluntary

Sheikh Rayees • August 11, 2025

PUBLISHED REPORT

The country's top court has put its foot down—State Bar Councils and the Bar Council of India are not to demand a single rupee beyond the statutory enrolment fee, no matter how creatively it's labelled. A Bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan dismissed the idea of so-called “optional” payments, making it clear that such charges have no legal standing. “There is nothing like optional,” the judges declared, adding...

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