



PUNJAB & HARYANA HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION (REGD.)
PUNJAB & HARYANA HIGH COURT, SECTOR-1, CHANDIGARH-160001 (INDIA)

Ref. No. 1867/2025 HCB A

Dated 10/5/2025

To
Hon'ble the Chief Justice
Punjab and Haryana High Court
Chandigarh

The Bar Association of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh, respectfully submits this communication to seek guidance regarding the further course of action pertaining to functioning of the Courts from Monday, the 12th of May 2025, in view of the war situation being faced and the High Court being situated in a potential threat area.

We may also clarify here the step taken by the Bar Association earlier on 9th May, 2025 to abstain from work was adopted as an emergency measure due to the sudden black out till further orders, cut in electricity supply all through the night, there being a perceived air strike threat on Chandigarh and surrounding areas announced by the Indian Air Force, the Deputy Commissioner and the SSP Chandigarh issuing an advisory to citizens to remain indoors, sirens being sounded in the morning before Court hours directing residents to remain indoors. This coupled with drone attacks in Pathankot, Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ferozepur created a panic situation which had to be responded to immediately.

Not only this, as intercity travel had been banned during the intervening night, and many Advocates and their staff travel from outside Chandigarh to reach the High Court, so do a number of Police Officials from Punjab & Haryana to respond to notices issued by the Courts in cases, and also litigants, it was deemed appropriate in the said situation to abstain from work as a lot many of the above are not equipped with VC facility.





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Another factor that weighed with the Executive Committee of the Punjab & Haryana High Court is the issue of most of the Courts not having an Open VC/ Court Room, and joining on VC being only permitted in response to a prior request, and some Courts having fixed timings for taking up matters through VC nearing the end of the working day. A request was made earlier in this regard to have open VC/ Court Rooms vide communication dated 26th March, 2025 (Ref. no.371/2025).

As the present war situation poses a threat to the safety and security of advocates, litigants, court staff, and all stakeholders in the justice delivery system, drawing from the advisories issued by the Administration and the Police, with fighter planes zooming over the city all night, and the city being a potential target of apprehended air strikes, even the thousands of cars parked in the High Court being potential arson, Members of the Bar have been expressing their concern for the safety and security of all those who visit the High Court and further suggesting the following modes for your kind consideration:

1. Restriction on Physical Attendance:

Temporary restriction on the physical attendance of clients and officials, except in cases of absolute necessity, to reduce congestion within court premises.

2. Encouragement of Video Conferencing:

All courtrooms are now equipped with video conferencing facilities. We strongly advocate for remote hearings to be the preferred mode, allowing advocates and clients to participate safely. The system should be inclusive and accessible, modelled on the hybrid approach followed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.





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3. Emergency Exit Planning:

Given the unique structure of our High Court, we propose the development and dissemination of clearly marked exit route maps. A simulation video demonstrating evacuation procedures could also be circulated to familiarize all stakeholders with emergency protocols.

4. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs):

Marked emergency exit points specifically for lawyers.

Regular safety training and mock drills for court staff and legal professionals to prepare for evacuation or emergency scenarios and prevent panic or stampedes.

We remain committed to ensuring the smooth functioning of the Courts and the administration of justice. We also express our unwavering support for our government and salute members of the armed forces, who are working tirelessly to protect the nation during these critical times.

We respectfully urge your Lordship to take immediate action on the above points for the safety and well-being of all.

Regards

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Honorary Secretary
Punjab and Haryana High Court
Bar Association, Chandigarh.

Encl: copy of letter dated 26.03.2025 (Ref. no.371/2025)

Hony. Secretary
Pb. & Haryana High Court Bar Association
Chandigarh



PUNJAB & HARYANA HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION (REGD.)
PUNJAB & HARYANA HIGH COURT, SECTOR-1, CHANDIGARH-160001 (INDIA)

Ref. No. 311/2025

4034

Dated 28/12/2025

To

Hon'ble The Chief Justice,
Punjab & Haryana High Court,
Chandigarh.

Subject: Representation on Issues Affecting Smooth Functioning of the Bar and Seeking Necessary Reforms for the Efficient Administration of Justice.

Respected Sir,

At the very outset, I extend my highest regards to you on behalf of the Punjab & Haryana High Court Bar Association and its esteemed members. The Bar is committed to ensuring smooth functioning of the judicial system and assisting the Hon'ble Court in the administration of justice.

It is in this spirit that I write to you seeking to convey certain concerns and practical difficulties being faced by members of the Bar in their day-to-day professional engagements. After due deliberations, the following suggestions are sought to be brought to your kind notice:

1. Announcement of Dates by the Reader/ Court Secretary in the Court itself on adjournment of a case:

It has been observed that post covid, there is a trend to not communicate the next date of hearing, upon adjournment of the case, in open Court. The next date is later posted on the website or communicated via messaging system.

This results in unnecessary confusion and inconvenience to the counsel as well as the litigant. The members of the Bar are





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appearing before various judicial Courts and Forums and need to be permitted to adjust their work as per their Diary.

It is hence, humbly requested that instructions be issued to the Court staff to announce the next date of hearing in open court before calling out for the next case.

2. **Circulation of Court Specific priority taken up list of cases, in deviation of the cause list, a day earlier/ the previous evening.**

Special lists of the seriatim in which cases are to be taken up, in deviation of the circulated cause list, are displayed outside some courtrooms in the morning of the day when the cases is listed. These lists thus become available to the members of the Bar after they have reached the Court premises.

This creates a lot of confusion and problem for members of the Bar who are not sure of which cases to prepare and which not to, as also in adjusting appearances in various Courts where their cases might be listed. This consequently affects court proceedings and effective disposal of cases.

It is thus proposed that these special Court Specific Lists be made available to Bar members a day prior, preferably in the evening.

3. **Virtual Court (VC) Facility to be Open and Available to Advocates at all times/ Open Court Room:**

The introduction of virtual hearing has been a significant step towards increasing accessibility and efficiency in judicial proceedings. However, at present, there are certain limitations on





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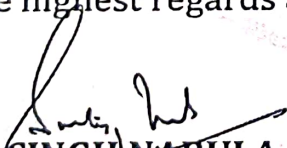
the availability of the VC facility to advocates, including their being admitted to the Court Room just before their respective cases are taken up, or else at a fixed time of the day, leading to practical difficulties.

It is most humbly requested that the virtual hearing option be made available to all members of the Bar without any restrictive conditions. This will not only ensure equitable access to justice but also facilitate smooth and efficient hearing of cases.

Your esteemed consideration of the above submissions will go a long way in enhancing the efficiency of court proceedings while also strengthening the Bar's ability to assist the Hon'ble Court in dispensation of justice. We sincerely hope that these reasonable and practical suggestions will be considered favorably in the interest of the Bar and Bench's shared objective of ensuring seamless administration of justice.

We remain ever grateful for Your Lordship's continuous efforts and commitment to enhancing judicial efficiency and fairness.

With the highest regards and utmost respect,


SARTEJ SINGH NARULA

President

Punjab & Haryana High Court
Bar Association, Chandigarh

President

Pb. & Haryana High Court Bar Association,
Chandigarh

