



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

Ref. No. 7623/2026 HCB A

Dated 05/05/2026

To,

The Registrar General,
Punjab and Haryana High Court,
Chandigarh.

Subject: Reply to letter dated 29.04.2026 regarding recommendations for regular sittings of the Hon'ble High Court on two Saturdays every month.

Dear *Sh. Chandra Shekhar,*

We are in receipt of your letter bearing No. 9359 Genl./VI.Z.28 (6-G) dated 29.04.2026 whereby our opinion has been sought regarding regular sittings of the Hon'ble High Court, on two Saturdays, each month.

Though this matter had earlier been crystalized in the meeting of the General House of the Bar Association, whereby such a move had been outrightly rejected and accordingly does not require any revisiting, yet, keeping in view your letter, mentioned supra, we have again reconsidered the entire issue and have come to the unanimous opinion that such a move is not acceptable in any case and would in fact be detrimental to the efficient functioning of the Hon'ble High Court.

That all cases which are taken up of arguments during the entire week are generally prepared on Sundays by all the lawyers. Infact the clients also find it convenient to visit the lawyers' chambers/offices on Sundays. As such, the only holiday available to the High Court lawyers is a Saturday and if that is also taken away, it would be impossible for the lawyers to assist the Hon'ble Court in any effective manner.

That leave alone the lawyers, even the Hon'ble judges would not be able to give their hundred percent if Saturdays are also made working. Normally, about 150 cases on an average are put up before any particular Bench, each and every day and it is impossible for them to even finish that list, though some of the Hon'ble judges keep sitting till 5 O' clock or even later, the court time being till 4:00 PM. By the time Friday arrives, the Hon'ble judges are already exhausted and if by any chance they are forced to work on Saturdays also, their overall efficiency will, in any case, go down.



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That rather than indulge in optics, it is felt that the number of sitting judges should be increased so as to ensure that there is no vacancy whatsoever at any point of time. It is rather sad that at no point in time the Hon'ble High Court has worked to its full strength of 85 judges. It is also incomprehensible that when the date of retirement of the Hon'ble Judge is known on the date of his appointment and years and years are available to the Government for filling his/her vacancies on retirement, why can't an advance list of the Hon'ble Judges be already in place to fill up the vacancies the very next day of his/her retirement.

That this is also a misnomer that enough court rooms are not available in the High Court premises at Chandigarh for appointments of judges. At this point of time, there are 69 working court rooms, and another set of more than 15 court rooms are available in the basement, where various Hon'ble Judges have been sitting in the past.

As such, the Bar Association completely rejects the idea of any Saturday being made working and will not accept the same.

Regards


Rupinder Singh Khosla, Sr. Advocate

Chairman
Election Committee
Punjab and Haryana High Court
Bar Association, Chandigarh
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