

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

CWP-PIL-187-2020 and
CWP-PIL-188-2020

Date of decision : 30.01.2024

Nikhil Saraf

....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and another

....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE RITU BAHRI, ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE NIDHI GUPTA

Present: Mr. Nikhil Saraf – Petitioner in person.

Mr. Navdeep Chhabra, Senior DAG, Punjab.

RITU BAHRI, ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE (Oral)

1. The petitioner has filed these petition seeking direction to the State Government to constitute a Commission under a retired High Court Judge/any other mechanism, to take action against all the erring police officials. A further direction is being sought that as per Annexures P-5 to P-10, the officials of the Police Department in the State of Punjab are mis-using the official social media accounts by using their name and Official Emblem of the Punjab Police, which is reducing the image of the Police in the eyes of the general public.

2. On notice of these petitions, two separate replies have been filed by the respondents. In the reply dated 05.04.2022, filed on behalf of

respondent No.1 – State, it is stated that vide notification dated 06.09.2019, the State of Punjab has framed the Punjab Police (Appointment of Chairperson and Members of Complaint Authorities) Rules, 2019, and thereafter, vide notification dated 23.01.2020, Shri Nirmaljit Singh Kalsi, IAS (Retd.), was appointed as Chairperson of the State Police Complaints Authority. Subsequently, vide notification dated 14.09.2021, Shri Satish Chandra, IAS (Retd.) was appointed as Chairperson of the said Authority.

3. With respect to the second prayer, reply dated 11.09.2023 filed on behalf of respondent No.2, would be relevant. Along with this reply, notifications dated 23.01.2020 dated 14.09.2021, referred to above, have been annexed as Annexures R-1 and R-2, respectively. It has been stated in this reply that on receipt of the letter dated 04.04.2022 (Annexure R-3) from the Department of Home Affairs and Justice (Home-1 Branch), the office of respondent No.2, vide letter dated 26.05.2022 (Annexure R-4), directed all Heads of Police in Punjab to desist from unauthorized activities including endorsing and floating fake social media accounts of the State Police Department using the name & Emblem of the Punjab Police on such fake social media accounts. Police officials have been further instructed to desist from bringing disrepute and insult to the Uniform by “modeling in uniform” for publicity and by publishing objectionable pictures on their social media accounts and other such forms.

4. Since appropriate steps have already been taken by the respondents, no further direction is required to be issued in these petitions. If any police official/officer is found violating the directions, as

contained in the aforesaid letter dated 26.05.2022 (Annexure R-4), appropriate action will be taken by the Department itself.

5. Petitions are, accordingly, dismissed as having been rendered infructuous.

(RITU BAHRI)
ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE

(NIDHI GUPTA)
JUDGE

January 30, 2024
ndj

Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
Whether reportable	Yes/No