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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

LPA-713-2026 (O&M)

Date of Decision: 22.04.2026

GURMEET SINGH

....Appellant(s)

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB AND OTHERS

.....Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JASGURPREET SINGH PURI
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE YASHVIR SINGH RATHOR

Present: Mr.Binderjit Singh, Advocate,
for the appellant.

JASGURPREET SINGH PURI, J. (Oral)CM-1786-LPA-2026

Prayer in this application is for condonation of delay of 36 days
in filing the appeal.

For the reasons mentioned in the application, the same is
allowed and the delay of 36 days in filing the appeal is hereby condoned.

LPA-713-2026

1. The present intra-Court appeal has been filed assailing the
order dated 29.11.2025 passed by the learned Single Judge in Civil Writ
Petition No.35393 of 2025.

2. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the appellant submitted
that the appellant was initially enlisted as a Constable in the Punjab Police in
the year 1963 i.e. 22.11.1963 and thereafter, on being brought on List B-1 in
the year 1971, he successfully passed Lower School Course in March, 1973.



Thereafter, the name of the appellant was recorded in List C-1 in the year 1973 and subsequently, he was promoted as Head Constable on 28.06.1974 and was thereafter confirmed as Head Constable on 31.01.1979. After passing the Intermediate School Course in March, 1985, the appellant was promoted as Assistant Sub-Inspector on 11.05.1985 and was thereafter confirmed as Assistant Sub-Inspector in the year 1990. Thereafter, when the appellant passed the Upper School Course in March, 1991, his name was entered in List E-1 in the year 1991 itself and he was thereafter promoted as Sub-Inspector on 23.03.1992. He was thereafter promoted as Inspector on 18.09.1997. Thereafter, on 31.10.2003, the appellant retired after attaining the age of superannuation.

3. Learned counsel submitted that there was a writ petition filed with regard to the integrated cadre of PAP and District Police bearing *CWP No.4829 of 2011* titled “*SI Pardeep Singh and others versus State of Punjab and others*”, which was decided on 16.12.2014 with a direction for recasting of the seniority. He further submitted that the appellant had also earlier filed a writ petition bearing CWP No.17814 of 2010 before this Court, which was dismissed as withdrawn on 01.10.2010 but his right for recasting of seniority vested in him and therefore, even though he has retired, his seniority is required to be recasted. He further submitted that even if the claim is belated, notional seniority may be granted to him so as to make him eligible for promotion from the date when his juniors were promoted.

4. Learned counsel submitted that the learned Single Judge has dismissed the writ petition on two grounds i.e. on the ground of *res judicata* as the appellant had earlier withdrawn a similar petition and also on the doctrine of delay and laches.

5. We have heard the learned counsel for the appellant.



6. Admittedly, the appellant retired on attaining the age of superannuation as an Inspector on 31.10.2003. The appellant is seeking recasting of his seniority and consequent notional promotion by filing the writ petition in the year 2025, which is after about 22 years after his retirement. In other words, the appellant is seeking a direction for granting him seniority and consequent notional promotion after about 22 years of his retirement.

7. *Vigilantibus non dormientibus jura subveniunt* is a basic doctrine which means that the law assists only those who are vigilant and not those who sleep over their rights. Even otherwise, seeking to reopen the seniority issue after about 22 years by way of filing a writ petition would not be appropriate and therefore, we are of the considered view that the learned Single Judge has rightly dismissed the writ petition filed by the appellant on the aforesaid ground of delay and laches.

8. We are also of the opinion that it will not be just and proper to issue any directions after a period of about 22 years from the retirement of the appellant for reopening the entire seniority issue.

9. Consequently, finding no merit in the present appeal, the same is hereby dismissed.

(JASGURPREET SINGH PURI)
JUDGE

(YASHVIR SINGH RATHOR)
JUDGE

22.04.2026

rakesh

Whether speaking	:	Yes/No
Whether reportable	:	Yes/No