



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

CWP-26987-2025 (O&M)

Date of Decision: 15.01.2026

**PREETIKA CHAWLA AND ANOTHER ... PETITIONERS
VS.
PUNJAB UNIVERSITY AND OTHERS .. RESPONDENTS**

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ASHWANI KUMAR MISHRA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ROHIT KAPOOR**

Present: None for the petitioners.

Mr. Nitin Kaushal, Addl. A.G. Haryana.

Mr. Akshay Kumar Goel, Advocate,
for respondent(s)-University.

ASHWANI KUMAR MISHRA, J. (ORAL)

In the present writ petition, the following order was passed on
30.09.2025:

“Petitioners before this Court are LL.B. 3 year students who are aggrieved by the impugned direction, whereby, 15% weightage is given to the candidates who have passed LL.B. (Honours) five years Course for admission to LL.M. Course.

It is contended that the impugned direction has been introduced in the Admission Brochure for the ensuing 2025-2026 Session, as a result of which none of the students who have passed LL.B. three years Course would be able to secure admission in the LL.M. Course.

Panjab University, Chandigarh is running Law Courses in two different Departments. There is one Department of Laws and the other is University Institute of Legal Studies (UILS). LL.M. Courses are being conducted in both the Departments. In Department of

Laws, the LL.M. Course is of one year. Admission in this Course is on the strength of merit determined in the entrance test. There is no weightage contemplated for B.A. LL.B. (Honours) five years Students. So far as UILS is concerned, the LL.M. Course is of two kinds i.e. one year (morning) and two years evening course.

In the One year LL.M. Course, admission is on the strength of entrance test which accounts for 80% weightage while 20% weightage is given to academic achievements. However, in the 2-year Evening Course UILS has accorded weightage of 15% to the students of the LL.B. Honours five years and three years Honours Course.

It is urged on behalf of the petitioners that there is no three years Honours Course in Panjab University. It is also contended that the process of admission by conducting Entrance Test adequately ascertains merit of the students for admission to LL.M. Course. It is further submitted that the Bar Council of India (BCI) has not made any provision of five years Honours Course nor has allowed any discretion to allow any weightage for admission to LL.M. Course. It is further urged that adopting of different criteria for admission in two different shifts and Departments of the same University for admission in the same Course is without any basis and hence is arbitrary. It is also contended that in the process all three years LL.B. students desirous of seeking admission in LL.M. Course would stand ousted only because of grant of 15% weightage to students who have obtained Law Degree in Honours Course.

When the matter was heard previously, we called upon the University to clarify as to how many students from LL.B. three years Course have been able to secure admission to two years LL.M. Course.

Learned Counsel for the respondent(s)-University states that there are 22 seats in General Category and no student from three years LL.B. Course has been able to secure admission. The only student from LL.B. three years Course to make it to the merit list is the candidate belonging to Physically Disabled Category and to Scheduled Tribes.

Prima facie, we find substance in the petitioners' contention that award of 15% additional weightage to LL.B. five years student(s) would be questionable particularly when the University is already conducting its entrance test to ascertain the merit of the candidates. We also find prima facie substance in the petitioners' contention that different yardsticks cannot be adopted for admission to LL.M. Course in the same University.

Matter requires consideration.

Advance notice on behalf of the respondent(s)-University has already been accepted. Although, two replies have been filed on behalf of the respondent(s)-University but we grant opportunity to the respondent(s)-University to file a detailed reply in the matter within three weeks. Rejoinder, if any, be filed within two weeks thereafter.

*Adjourned to **20.11.2025**.*

As an interim measure, we provide that the respondent(s)- University shall admit students to LL.M. two years Course in UICL on the strength of merit of candidate determined in the entrance test and/or on the strength of weightage of educational qualification except by giving 15% weightage to the students of LL.B. five years Course.

It shall also be open for the respondent(s)-University to have a re-look at its policy of providing 15% weightage, which is stated to be limited to Panjab University alone.”

Learned counsel for the respondent(s)-University informs that the aforesaid order has been implemented and in terms of the directions issued, wherein admission process for the current academic session has concluded. He further states that in the next academic session, an appropriate decision will be taken by the respondent(s) with regard to the criteria to be followed for grant of admission to LL.B. course in the department of laws.

In view of the statement made by learned counsel for the respondent(s)-University, as also the fact that admissions have been granted in terms of the order passed by this Court on 30.09.2025, we dispose of the writ petition with the observation that those who have been admitted pursuant to order dated 30.09.2025 shall be allowed to conclude the session/course. We also provide that the University shall again have a look at its policy of providing 15% weightage for admission to LLM course.

Disposed of.

Pending applications, if any, also stand disposed of.

(ASHWANI KUMAR MISHRA)
JUDGE

(ROHIT KAPOOR)
JUDGE

15.01.2026
smriti

Whether speaking/reasoned	: Yes/No
Whether Reportable	: Yes/No