



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

CM-158-CWP-2026 IN
CWP-29542-2025

Date of Decision : **January 19, 2026**

HARSH VARDHAN AND OTHERS

.....Petitioners

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB AND OTHERS

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DEEPINDER SINGH NALWA

Present : Mr. Nitesh Singla, Advocate for the petitioners.
Mr. Amarpreet Singh Bains, AAG, Punjab.

DEEPINDER SINGH NALWA, J. (Oral)

CM-158-CWP-2026

1. This is an application for impleading Department of Finance through its Secretary as respondent No.4.
2. The learned State counsel does not oppose to the prayer made in the application filed by the petitioners.
3. In view of the reasons mentioned in the application, the same is allowed and the Department of Finance through its Secretary is impleaded as respondent No.4. Amended memo of parties is taken on record.
4. On the oral request made by the learned counsel for the petitioners, the main case is ordered to be taken on Board today itself.

Main case

5. In the present writ petition, the petitioners have challenged the order dated 04.09.2025 (Annexure P-5) vide which, the claim of the petitioners regarding stepping up of their pay at par with their juniors have

been kept on hold till the final decision of issuance of new ACP Scheme is taken by the Government.

4. A perusal of the impugned order dated 04.09.2025 (Annexure P-5) would show that the claim of the petitioners for stepping up of pay has not been considered in light of letter dated 09.05.2025 (Annexure P-6) issued by the State of Punjab (Department of Finance) wherein cases involving pay anomalies between the senior and the junior employees is kept on hold until the final decision regarding new ACP Scheme is taken by the Government.

6. Taking into consideration that no final decision has been taken in regard to the claim of the petitioners and also the reasons given in the impugned order dated 04.09.2025 (Annexure P-5), this Court deems appropriate to give direction to the respondents to take a final decision in regard to the claim of the petitioners.

7. In view of the above, without commenting upon merits of the case, the present writ petition is disposed of with a direction to the respondents to take final decision in regard to claim of the petitioners, preferably within 06 months, from the date of receipt of certified copy of this order, in accordance with law.

8. Pending application(s), if any, shall also stand(s) disposed of accordingly.

(DEEPINDER SINGH NALWA)
JUDGE

January 19, 2026
ajaysharma

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