

**SURAJ RAI V/S STATE OF PUNJAB**

Present: None for the petitioner(s).

Mr. Mohit Kapoor, Sr.DAG, Punjab (through V.C.).

Mr. Kshitij Sharma, Senior Advocate assisted by  
Ms. Gurpreet K. Bhatti, Advocate as Amicus curiae.

Mr. Himanshu Aggarwal, Deputy Commissioner, Patiala  
(through V.C.).

Inspector Gurpreet Singh, S.H.O.  
Police Station Urban Estate, District Patiala in person.

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Pursuant to order dated 05.05.2026, Mr. Himanshu Aggarwal, Deputy Commissioner, Patiala has joined the Court proceedings through video conferencing. The incumbent Inspector Gurpreet Singh, SHO, Police Station Urban Estate, District Patiala has appeared in person, however, he was not the officer required to be present here. The officer who had been issued a contempt notice for disregarding the order of providing evidence, was the one required to remain present.

Learned State Counsel ensures that the said officer, who did not appear as he had been transferred to another Police Station, shall remain present in the Court on the next date of hearing.

Learned Deputy Commissioner has pointed out that they receive reports from the respective police stations on monthly basis and that the same are thereafter filed. However, he is not in a position to divulge as to what random inspections or checks are undertaken on receipt of such report or as to whether only a paper report is compiled and bound in bulk volumes instead of any real and tangible monitoring. Such mechanical approach invariably defeats the very object of creation of District Level Oversight Committees and State Level Oversight Committees.

Learned Amicus contends that as per the judgment in the matter of the **“Shafhi Mohammad vs. The State Of Himachal Pradesh”** reported as **(2018) 5 SCC 311**, the Hon’ble Supreme Court directed constitution of a Central Oversight Body (COB) and the State Level Oversight Committees and District Level Oversight Committees work under its guidance. He further contends that as per the directions, instructions may have been issued by the Central Oversight Body from time to time for its execution and implementation by the SLOC as well as DLOC, however, no instructions of Central Oversight Body are currently available in public domain. It is incomprehensible that no instructions or directions of any nature would have been issued by the Central Oversight Body during the period of 08 years. Thus, there would be a lot of gaping holes in the instructions that may have been issued by the Central Oversight Body for implementation by the SLOC or DLOC and the actual implementation thereof. He further submits that in order to ensure that there is a holistic implementation of the instructions issued by the Central Oversight Body, as per the underlying object behind the directions issued by the Hon’ble Supreme Court, a comprehensive report of such instructions issued by Central Oversight Body from time to time be asked for from the SLOC and information may also be called for from the SLOC as to whether any CCTV footages are actually being monitored especially when every other day, people come to the Court asking for preservation of CCTV footages and the State regularly files affidavits, acknowledging that CCTV footages are not available or about dysfunctional CCTVs. In order to ascertain the veracity of the stand taken by the respondent/State in its affidavits filed before this Court, corroboration of such information can be undertaken from the data and that the same may be obtained from the SLOC.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "**Paramvir Singh Saini v. Baljit Singh & Ors.**" reported as (2021) 1 SCC 184 has observed as under:-

*"12.It shall be the duty of the SLOC to see that the directions passed by this Court are carried out. Amongst others, the duties shall consist of:*

- a) Purchase, distribution and installation of CCTVs and its equipment;*
- b) Obtaining the budgetary allocation for the same;*
- c) Continuous monitoring of maintenance and upkeep of CCTVs and its equipment;*
- d) Carrying out inspections and addressing the grievances received from the DLOC; and*
- e) To call for monthly reports from the DLOC and immediately address any concerns like faulty equipment.*

*Likewise, the DLOC shall have the following obligations:*

- a) Supervision, maintenance and upkeep of CCTVs and its equipment;*
- b) Continuous monitoring of maintenance and upkeep of CCTVs and its equipment;*
- c) To interact with the Station House Officer (hereinafter referred to as the "SHO") as to the functioning and maintenance of CCTVs and its equipment; and*
- d) To send monthly reports to the SLOC about the functioning of CCTVs and allied equipment.*
- e) To review footage stored from CCTVs in the various Police Stations to check for any human rights violation that may have occurred but are not reported."*

I am of the opinion that the issue being of vital significance and the Hon'ble Supreme Court emphasizing the need for ensuring that CCTV cameras are not only installed but the CCTV footages are also stored for a minimum period of 06 months, it is apposite to call for a response from the SLOC not only

from the State of Punjab but also from the State of Haryana as well as U.T. Chandigarh.

On advance notice, Mr. Onkar Singh Wahla, Sr. DAG, Haryana and Mr. Rajesh K. Sheoran, Addl. P.P. for U.T. Chandigarh accept notice on behalf of respondent-State/Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh respectively.

Counsel for both the State of Punjab and Haryana and the counsel for U.T. pray for time to file a comprehensive list of instructions that have been issued by the Central Oversight Body as well as the SLOC for compliance by the various DLOCs and the detailed analysis of the data that has been collected by the SLOC over a period of time from the date of being furnished by different DLOCs and as to what discrepancies/shortages have ever been noticed by them over a period of last 05 years.

The requisite information, by way of an affidavit, to be furnished by the Officer not below the rank of Member Secretary of SLOC of the concerned State/U.T. be filed on or by the next date of hearing with a copy in advance to the Amicus Curiae.

List on 22.05.2026.

**07.05.2026**  
*Sumit Gusain*

**(VINOD S. BHARDWAJ)**  
**JUDGE**