

COURT ON ITS OWN MOTION

V/S

STATE OF PUNJAB AND OTHERS

Present: Ms. Tanu Bedi, Advocate, (*Amicus Curiae*)
Mr. Akshat Sharma, Advocate and
Mr. Gaurav Mishra, Advocate

Mr. Salil Sabhlok, Senior DAG, Punjab.

Mr. Abhinav Sood, Advocate and
Ms. Ekakshra Mahajan Mandhar, Advocate
for the respondent-UT, Chandigarh.

Mr. Satya Pal Jain, Additional Solicitor General of India with
Mr. Prajwal Chauhan, Central Government Counsel
for the respondents-Union of India.

Mr. Deepak Balyan, Addl. AG, Haryana.

Pursuant to previous order dated 20.08.2026, the State of Punjab has placed before the Court a status report, which is taken on record. The Registry is directed to do the needful.

Perusal of the said status report indicates that almost 50% of the jail inmates lodged in different jails across the State are drug-dependent. Out of a total of 35,449 jail inmates lodged in different jails, 15,768 are dependent on drugs. The age-wise composition has also been furnished in paragraph 5 of the status report, which indicates that most of these drug-dependent inmates are in the prime of their youth. This clearly reflects a serious challenge for the State, which must be accorded the highest priority.

We request the learned Amicus Curiae to examine the status report filed today by the State of Punjab and render assistance to the Court with regard to the manner in which the problem ought to be addressed.

Learned Senior DAG, Punjab submits that the Department of Health, Government of Punjab, would be in a better position to assist the Court in the present matter. The prayer is not opposed by the other side(s).

Accordingly, at the oral request of learned Senior DAG, Punjab, the Department of Health, Government of Punjab, through its Secretary, is impleaded as respondent No.4 in the instant case.

In the facts and circumstances of the case, we implead the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India through its Secretary, Union Territory, Chandigarh, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh through its Director and Department of Health and Family Welfare through its Secretary, Government of Haryana, as respondents No.5, 6, 7 and 8 respectively in the instant writ petition. The Registry is directed to do the needful.

Notice be issued to the newly impleaded respondents.

Mr. Satya Pal Jain, Additional Solicitor General of India assisted by Mr. Prajwal Chauhan, Central Government Counsel, Mr. Abhinav Sood, Advocate and Mr. Deepak Balyan, Addl. AG, Haryana, accept notice on behalf of the respondents No.5, respondents No.6 and respondent No.8 respectively.

The directions issued to the State of Punjab on the previous occasion shall also apply to the State of Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh, and the respective affidavits shall also be filed by them before the next date of hearing.

To be shown in the ***urgent list***.

Adjourned to **08.09.2026**.

**[ASHWANI KUMAR MISHRA]
ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE**

**[RAJESH GAUR]
JUDGE**

SEPTEMBER 01, 2026

Rahul Joshi