



2026:DHC:4128



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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**% **Date of Decision : 06.05.2026**+ **CONT.CAS(C) 521/2026****RUSHANT MALHOTRA**

.....Petitioner

Through: Mr. Aditya Chauhan, Mr. Sahil Sharma, Mr. Shashank Aggarwal, Mr. Bhavya Khatreja, Mr. Surya Pratap Sirohi, Advs.

versus

THE GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI & ORS.....Respondents

Through: Mr. Tushar Sannu, Mr. Parvin Bansal, Advs. along with Mr. Ritesh Kumar (Principal Secretary- Law), Mr. Santosh (Secretary-Finance)

CORAM:**HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SACHIN DATTA****SACHIN DATTA, J. (ORAL)**

1. Pursuant to the directions contained in the order dated 30.03.2026, a status report has been filed by Mr. Reetesh Singh (Principal Secretary, Department of Law, Justice & Legislative Affairs, GNCTD). The same reads as under:-

STATUS REPORT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 1 (GNCTD)

I, Reetesh Singh, in the capacity of Principal Secretary (Law, Justice & Legislative Affairs), Government of NCT of Delhi, being well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the present case, do hereby submit this Status Report for the kind consideration of this Hon'ble Court:

1. That the present Status Report is being filed in compliance with the directions issued by this Hon'ble Court vide order dated 30.03.2026 in Contempt Case (Civil) No. 521/2026 titled *Rushant Malhotra vs Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Ors.*
2. That it is submitted that the issue pertains to enhancement of monthly remuneration of Law Researchers engaged in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi from ₹65,000/- to ₹80,000/- w.e.f. from 01.10.2022.
3. That this Hon'ble Court, vide judgment dated 29.10.2025 in W.P.(C) No. 7998/2025, was pleased to direct that the enhancement of remuneration be made effective from 01.10.2022 and arrears be released up to 02.09.2025.



4. That the Respondent GNCTD preferred a Special Leave Petition being SLP (C) No. 6879/2026 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India challenging the aforesaid judgment. However, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, vide order dated 16.02.2026, dismissed the said SLP.
5. That consequent upon dismissal of the SLP, the matter has been processed by the Law Department within the Government of NCT of Delhi for compliance.
6. That vide Cabinet decision dated 03/09/2025, the Hon'ble Council of Ministers, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, approved the proposals of the Law Department in the following manner:

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- a. **Increase in the number of Law Researchers from three to four per Hon'ble Judge of High Court of Delhi.**
- b. **Enhancement of remuneration, from 65,000/- to 80,000/- w.e.f. 02.09.2025**

7. That as compliance of the direction of this Hon'ble Court for enhancement of remuneration of law researchers to be made effective from 01.10.2022, (as originally recommended by this Hon'ble Court) from Rs. 65,000 to Rs. 80,000/- would require modification of the initial decision of the Hon'ble Cabinet, Govt of NCT of Delhi dated 03.09.2025, the matter was advised by the Finance Department to be placed before the Hon'ble Cabinet as required as per the Transaction of Business Rules, Govt. of NCT of Delhi 1993 (Rules 7 & 9; Schedule 9- Proposals involving any important change in policy or practice).
8. That after obtaining comments from various departments on the Cabinet Note, the matter was put up before the Hon'ble Cabinet, Govt. of NCT of Delhi on 05.05.2026.
9. That in the meeting held on 05.05.2026, the Hon'ble Cabinet approved the proposal of Law Department for compliance of the judgement of this Hon'ble Court. Upon receipt of the minutes of the decision of the Hon'ble Cabinet, the necessary sanction shall be issued by the Law Department in the present matter without any delay.
10. The undersigned hereby undertakes to abide by any other directions issued by this Hon'ble Court.

2. Mr. Reetesh Singh has joined the proceedings virtually. He submits that pursuant to the approval of the Cabinet, the matter shall be duly processed and forwarded to the Delhi High Court for taking necessary steps, inter alia, disbursement of the concerned amounts to the concerned Law



2026:DHC:4128



Researchers (LRs). Let the same be done expeditiously, as assured by the Principal Secretary, Department of Law, Justice & Legislative Affairs, GNCTD.

3. The Principal Secretary (Finance) has also joined the proceedings virtually. He assures that the Department of Finance shall continue to render appropriate assistance, as may be required, for implementation of the concerned directions.

4. This Court records its appreciation for the efforts made by Mr. Reetesh Singh (Principal Secretary, Department of Law, Justice & Legislative Affairs, GNCTD), Principal Secretary (Finance) & the counsels for the Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD).

5. The petition is disposed of in the above terms.

SACHIN DATTA, J

MAY 6, 2026/uk