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HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD

WRIT - C No. - 35693 of 2026

Pradeep Singh

.....Petitioner(s)

Versus

State Of U.P. And 4 Others

.....Respondent(s)

Counsel for Petitioner(s)	:	Rajesh Kumar Singh
Counsel for Respondent(s)	:	C.S.C.

Court No. - 1

HON'BLE AJIT KUMAR, J.
HON'BLE GARIMA PRASHAD, J.

1. Heard Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, learned counsel for the petitioner, Shri Anubhav Chandra, learned counsel for the State respondent particularly for District Magistrate, Mirzapur, Shri Pawan Kumar Gangwar, who has appeared in person today in compliance with our previous order.

2. The basic grievance raised in the petition was that the petitioner was not being paid his dues, which represent the professional fee payable to him as an advocate on the panel of the Gram Sabha in the High Court, falling within the territorial jurisdiction of the Vindhyachal Division, District Mirzapur, and that the same had remained pending since March 2023 till April 2026. While, pursuant to the compliance affidavit filed on behalf of the District Magistrate, Sant Ravidas Nagar/Bhadohi, the balance amount of Rs. 2,89,000/- was cleared, the remaining amount, which the District Magistrate, Mirzapur, was required to clear, remained unpaid on the last date.

3. Shri Anubhav Chandra, learned counsel, sought adjournment on the ground that the compliance affidavit was under preparation, as the bills were pending consideration for clearance. We were left with no other option but to summon the District Magistrate to explain his position as to why the remaining bills had remained pending for such a long time.

4. Shri Pawan Kumar Gangwar admits that he has been serving as the District Magistrate, Mirzapur, for the last fourteen months and fairly

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admits that the bills had remained pending consideration. He further states that, upon receiving a call from the office of the Chief Standing Counsel, he immediately expedited the payment process. While the compliance affidavit filed today seeks exemption from personal appearance, he has stated therein that all pending bills relating to the petitioner have been cleared. The petitioner has been paid the arrears in terms of the pending bills by the respective Collectors, Sant Ravidas Nagar/Bhadohi and Mirzapur. However, several lawyers who were on the panel of the Gram Sabha in High Court in different districts falling within different divisions are present in Court, complaining that the District Magistrates of their respective districts have withheld their bills and that some of the lawyers on the panel of the Gram Sabha in High Court have not been able to get their bills cleared since 2020.

5. Shri Azad Rai, who happens to be the counsel for the Gram Sabha, Prayagraj and Shri Sunil Kumar Singh, who was earlier a panel counsel for the Gram Sabha in the districts of Jaunpur and Prayagraj, have also raised similar grievances.

6. We are pained to know that the lawyers who are on the panel of the Gram Sabha in High Court are not being paid their professional fees, even though they are regularly assisting in the administration of justice. We find that the situation has become inevitable and uncomfortable. If the lawyers fail to assist the Court in the adjudication of disputes, it will further delay the disposal of cases before the High Court. This would be against public interest, as litigants approach the High Court for expeditious disposal of their pending cases, and the High Court would be unable to dispose of such cases expeditiously.

7. We, therefore, direct the Principal Secretary, Department of Finance and Revenue, Government of U.P. to issue directions to the District Magistrates of the respective districts to clear all pending bills, as on date, of the panel lawyers of the Gram Sabha in High Court and its Lucknow Bench in respect of their respective districts and to ensure compliance with the order of this Court.

8. Learned Additional Chief Standing Counsel for the State is directed to intimate this order to the Principal Secretary, Department of Finance and

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Revenue, Government of U.P. within 48 hours.

9. Registrar (Compliance) shall also intimate this order to the Principal Secretary, Department of Finance and Revenue, Government of U.P. for necessary compliance within 48 hours.

10. In case the compliance affidavit is not filed by the next date fixed, the Court will be compelled to take serious view of the matter.

11. List this matter on 21.12.2026.

12. At this stage, we also direct the District Magistrate, Mirzapur, to ensure that, in future, whenever bills are submitted by the panel counsel of the Gram Sabha in High Court in his office, the same shall be cleared within fifteen days without any delay. Shri Gangwar agrees to the same, and we record the same as an undertaking given before this Court.

13. In view of the above, personal appearance of Shri Pawan Kumar Gangwar, District Magistrate Mirzapur is exempted. Notices issued to him stands discharged.

(Garima Prashad,J.) (Ajit Kumar,J.)

November 18, 2026
Sachin Mishra