

COURT NO. 1
ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

1.

MA 378/2026 in (With Dy. No 582/2026)

Hav/PTA Harish Chandra Dewan	Applicant
Versus		
Union of India & Ors.	Respondents

For Applicant	:	Mr. Suresh Kumar Palta, Advocate
For Respondents	:	Mr. Sameer S. Sinha, Advocate

CORAM

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJENDRA MENON, CHAIRPERSON

ORDER
30.01.2026

This application has been filed under Rule 6 seeking permission to initiate proceedings before the Principal Bench at New Delhi. Although territorial jurisdiction lies with the Regional Bench, Jammu it is submitted that the Jammu Bench is not functional due to non-availability of both Judicial and Administrative Members. Accordingly permission is sought to initiate proceedings before the Principal Bench. The applicant prays for grant of premature retirement on account of various ailments.

2. However it is noted that although the Jammu Bench is not presently functional the Regional Bench, Chandigarh, is regularly taking up matters pertaining to the Jammu Bench, including admission matters, urgent matters and certain hearing matters. Members from the Regional Bench, Chandigarh along with Administrative Members of non-functional Benches are holding regular sittings in Jammu for at least one to two weeks every

month. Urgent matters are also being heard virtually from Chandigarh.

3. In view of the above, no case is made out for permitting initiation of proceedings before the Principal Bench, where more than 14,500 cases are already pending. The applicant may initiate proceedings before the appropriate Regional Bench and thereafter seek urgent hearing through the Head of Department of the Regional Bench, Chandigarh who may grant priority hearing in case of urgency or emergency.

4. Accordingly, for the aforesaid reasons, the MA is dismissed.



[JUSTICE RAJENDRA MENON]
CHAIRPERSON

/jyoti/