GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
LABOUR DEPARTMENT
5, Sham Nath Marg, Delhi – 110054

No. F. Lab.-L012/18/2026-legal/ 868- 870 Dated: 26 /11/2026

CIRCULAR

Subject: Judgment dated 11.08.2026 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Sudhir & Ors. v. Head of HR, Dainik Bhaskar Group (D.B. Corp. Ltd.) & Ors.* [2026 INSC 834] – references relating to working journalists – regarding.

1. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that the power to refer a claim to the Labour Court under Section 17(2) of the Working Journalists Act, 1955 vests in the State Government alone and cannot be delegated.

2. In Delhi, such disputes have been referred under Section 10 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 by officers exercising powers delegated under Section 39. The Law Department, GNCTD has advised that the judgment does not by itself invalidate these references and that no general confirmation or ratification is required; pending proceedings continue under the savings provisions despite the repeal of both Acts w.e.f. 21.11.2025. However, a management may contend that a money claim under the Working Journalists Act could be referred only under Section 17(2). Each case, therefore, needs to be examined on its own facts.

3. All Joint/Deputy Labour Commissioners (Districts) are accordingly directed to:

   (i) examine every pending reference relating to working journalists / newspaper employees with regard to the nature of the claim, the wording of the order of reference, and the authorisation of the referring officer under the Section 39 notification then in force;

   (ii) defend such references, wherever challenged, as valid references under Section 10 read with Section 39 of the ID Act.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

26/11/2026

(U.K.Sinha)
Addl. Labour Commissioner

To,
All Joint / Deputy Labour Commissioners, Labour Department, GNCTD.

Copy to:

1. PS to Secretary-cum-Commissioner (Labour), GNCTD.
2. AD (IT) to upload on the website.
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