

News

Lawyers in Delhi turn down the BCI's request for negotiations; the strike will begin on September 8.



The lawyers' organization stated, "We remain steadfast in our demand that police officers physically appear in courts for deposition."

Trial court attorneys in Delhi have rejected the Bar Council of India's (BCI) request to halt the strike that is set to begin on Monday, stating that their agitation will go as planned.

The Co-ordination Committee All District Courts Bar Associations of Delhi said in a statement released on Saturday night that they remain steadfast in their demand that police officers physically show up in court to provide evidence or a deposition.

According to the **lawyers'** association, the indefinite strike will intensify starting on September 8.

"It has been unanimously resolved that if, our above-mentioned genuine demand that all the police officials have to appear physically before the court for deposition/ evidence which is in the benefit of public at large for the purpose of fair and free trial, is not acceded to, we shall continue with our call for indefinite abstention from work w.e.f. 08.09.2025 and the same shall be in more intensified manner," the statement continued.

The attorneys' organization received a letter earlier in the day from the Bar Council of India (BCI) asking them to postpone or call off the indefinite strike and come to a joint meeting with the BCI and the Bar Council of Delhi (BCD) on September 8.

According to BCI Chairman Manan Kumar Mishra, the Delhi Police Commissioner's recent notification from September 4 makes it clear that material police witnesses may appear in person, but only formal police witnesses may be questioned by video conference.

"Our plain & simple submission is that repeated abstentions from work are causing grave hardship to litigants, including under-trial prisoners and victims of crime, and also to those advocates who are eager to discharge their professional duties in Delhi Courts," said the BCI.

The Delhi Police's intention to designate all police stations in the National Capital Territory as "places for the purpose of presenting evidence and deposing before courts through video conferencing by police personnel only" has drawn criticism from attorneys working in Delhi's trial court.

The attorneys did not report to work from August 22 to August 28 after the notification was sent on August 13.

After the Delhi Police retracted the notification and Home Minister Amit Shah consented to meet with the protesting attorneys, the strike was put on hold.

But on September 4, the Delhi Police sent out the notification once more, enabling the video conference examination of official police witnesses. Additionally, the letter stated that the presiding judge could take the defense's request for a police witness's physical presence into consideration and permit a physical examination.