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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CWP-1987-2026

Date of Decision :06.02.2026

Dr. Shambhu Dayal Sharma

...Petitioner

Versus

Shri Krishna Ayush University,
Kurukshetra and Others

....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE TRIBHUVAN DAHIYA

Present: Mr. Sunil K. Nehra, Senior Advocate with
Mr. Anuj Chauhan, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. A.S. Virk, Advocate
for respondents no.1 to 4.

Mr. Amit Sahni, Additional Advocate General, Haryana.

TRIBHUVAN DAHIYA, J. (ORAL)

The petition has been filed, *inter alia*, seeking a writ of *certiorari* quashing the criteria for promotion to the post of Principal dated 13.01.2026, Annexure P-21, being in violation of the statutory rules-Shri Krishna Ayush University Kurukshetra Teaching Faculty (Ayurved) Recruitment & Conditions of Service Rules, 2023.

2. On the last date of hearing, the following order was passed:

It is *inter alia* contended that the petitioner is working as Professor in the respondent-University. He applied for promotion to the post of Principal in response to circular dated 17.12.2025. As laid down in the University rules the promotion is to be made on the principle of seniority-cum-merit. And for the purpose of deciding the merit assessing suitability of the candidates for the post of Principal, they are required to appear before a selection committee headed by the Vice Chancellor under the University



Act. The criteria for selection dated 13.01.2026, Annexure P-21, framed by the Vice Chancellor prescribes five marks for 'presentation on the vision about IASR as Principal' and ten marks for interview to be faced by the candidates, but minimum marks have not been prescribed. Reliance has been placed on the law laid down by the Supreme Court in *Rajendra Kumar Srivastava and others v. Samyut Kshetriya Gramin Bank and others*, (2010) 1 SCC 335, to contend that for promotion on the basis of seniority-cum-merit, it is incumbent upon the employer to fix a minimum benchmark to assess merit and suitability of candidates which has not been done vide the impugned criteria. Accordingly, the whole selection process is vitiated.

2. Learned counsel appearing for the University has shown the original record. He submits that the candidates have already been interviewed on 15.01.2026, but the selection proceedings have not yet been finalised as the same are to be placed before the Executive Council on 09.02.2026. He seeks an adjournment to get instructions in the matter.

3. Adjourned to 06.02.2026.

4. In the meanwhile, respondent-University is restrained from giving effect to the recommendations of selection committee for promotion to the post of Principal.

3. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of respondents no.1 to 4 has received instructions from the University vide email dated 06.02.2026, a copy whereof has been retained on the case file as Annexure 'A'. Referring to the same, he contends that the University has decided not to go ahead with the selection committee report/recommendation, dated 15.01.2026, for promotion to the post of Principal, Institute for Ayurveda Studies & Research, Faculty of Ayurved. The agenda item no.18.6, regarding placing it before Executive Council in its meeting dated 09.02.2026, will be withdrawn. A revised criteria

will be proposed for promotion to the post of Principal in accordance with law,



and after its approval by the Executive Council, the process will be initiated afresh.

4. In view of the statement made, learned counsel for the petitioner has no objection to the petition being disposed of in terms thereof.

5. Ordered accordingly.

February 06, 2026

ps

(TRIBHUVAN DAHIYA)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/ reasoned : *Yes/No*
Whether reportable : *Yes/No*