IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

153 **CWP-8717-2026**
Date of Decision:07.04.2026

HDFC BANK LIMITED **...PETITIONER**

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB AND OTHERS **...RESPONDENTS**

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUVIR SEHGAL
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIKAS SURI

Present: Mr. Nitin Thatai, Advocate,
Ms. Monika Thatai, Advocate,
Ms. Shruti Sharma, Advocate and
Mr. Karan Sharma, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. A.S. Khara, Sr. DAG, Punjab.

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SUVIR SEHGAL, J. (ORAL)

1. Petitioner-bank has approached this Court, *inter alia,* for issuance of a direction to official respondents No.1 to 3 to postpone the sealing/demolition of premises, where the bank branch is located, in District Ludhiana.

2. Mr. Nitin Thatai, counsel for the petitioner states that pursuant to observations made by Division Bench of this Court in CWP-PIL-85-2024, Greater Ludhiana Area Development Authority (GLADA) has initiated proceedings to demolish the unauthorized construction abutting the National

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Highway and impugned notice has been issued under the Punjab Regional and Town Planning and Development Act, 1995. By making a reference to orders passed by the Ist Division Bench, counsel has asserted that this Court never directed the demolition of the premises in petitioner's possession. He states that as petitioner is running a bank in the leased premises, which has a large number of lockers, petitioner is required to comply with the RBI Regulations as well as issue public notices before shifting the branch and lockers.

3. Pursuant to previous order passed by this Court, petitioner has filed an affidavit of Sh. Ajay Pahuja, Assistant Vice President, Infrastructure, HDFC Bank Limited, which is taken on record. Relevant extract of the affidavit is reproduced hereunder:-

> *"3. That, it is worthwhile to submit here that the petitioner bank is running its branch from the said premises since 2011 and Banking Services being covered under essential services, therefore, a bank's branch cannot be possibly shifted within a period of one week as there are number of compliances which are necessary to be made as per the RBI guidelines which also includes notices to be issued to its customers, shifting of Bank Lockers etc.*
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> *4. That the Deponent on behalf of the Petitioner Bank furnishes an undertaking that the Petitioner Bank is in the process of identifying a suitable premises for shifting its branch and the entire shifting process including compliances to be made as per directives of RBI would take approximately 8 to 9 months and if the Petitioner Bank is granted time till 31.12.2026 then the Petitioner Bank would voluntarily vacate the premises in question.*
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> *5. That, the deponent also undertakes that the petitioner bank will have no objection, if any of the representatives of official respondents want to inspect the bank branch/said premises for the purpose of identifying any unauthorized construction done by the landlord/owner of the property subject to the fact that the banking facilities are not hampered with."*

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4. In view of the undertaking given by the petitioner, bank is granted time till 31.12.2026 to shift the premises.

5. In view of the above, writ petition is disposed of.

(SUVIR SEHGAL)
JUDGE

(VIKAS SURI)
JUDGE

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Whether Speaking/Reasoned	Yes/No
Whether Reportable	Yes/No

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