

2026.PHHC:048429



139.

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT  
CHANDIGARH**

**CWP-9380-2026**

Date of decision: 27.03.2026

Lt. CDR Navroop Kaur

.... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and another

.... Respondents

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE NAMIT KUMAR**

Present: Ms. Samridhi Sareen, Advocate, for the petitioner.

Mr. Surya Kumar, AAG, Punjab.

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**NAMIT KUMAR, J. (ORAL)**

1. Prayer in this petition filed under Articles 226/227 of the Constitution of India is for issuance of a writ in the nature of mandamus directing the respondents to permit the petitioner to submit her application form and to appear in the Punjab State Civil Services Combined Competitive (Mains) Examination, 2025, commencing from 01.04.2026.

2. On receipt of advance copy of the petition, Mr. Surya Kumar, AAG, Punjab, appears on behalf of respondents. He, on instructions from Ms. Pooja Verma, Senior Assistant, PPSC, submits that the portal was firstly opened vide public notice dated 26.02.2026, whereby the candidates were directed to fill their online application forms by 08.03.2026 upto 11:59 PM, failing which, they will not be able to download their admit cards for the Mains examination. Thereafter, the portal was again opened on 09.03.2026 and the candidates were given further time till 11.03.2026

upto 11:59 PM. Thereafter, again on 18.03.2026, the portal was opened and the candidates were directed to fill their online application forms by 20.03.2026 upto 11:59 PM. He further submits that it is the case of the petitioner herself that she received a whatsapp message from the Commission on 18.03.2026, wherein it was stated “*Dear candidate, You have still not filled PCS Mains-2025 application form. Last date to submit is 20.03.2026. Ensure to submit the form after saving the draft as per instructions dated 26.02.2026 uploaded on website of Commission. Regards PPSC*”, and still the petitioner has not submitted her application form for the main examination.

3. It is a well settled proposition of law that the cut-off dates prescribed for submission of application forms in competitive examinations are sacrosanct and must be adhered to strictly. Such timelines are not mere procedural formalities but are integral for maintaining certainty, transparency and uniformity in the selection process. Once a schedule is notified, it binds all candidates alike, and no individual can claim a special dispensation on account of negligence or personal difficulty. Permitting relaxation of the cut-off date in individual cases would not only amount to conferring undue advantage upon a negligent candidate but would also open the floodgates for similar claims. The sanctity of the selection process lies in strict adherence to the notified timelines, and any deviation therefrom would compromise the principles of fairness and equal opportunity enshrined under Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution of India. Consequently, a candidate, who fails to comply with the stipulated schedule

cannot, as a matter of right, seek indulgence of the Court to extend or reopen the process.

4. Accordingly, upon consideration of the submissions made and the material placed on record, this Court is of the considered view that the present petition is devoid of merit. It is not in dispute that the respondent-Commission, had granted multiple opportunities to the candidates, including the petitioner, to submit their online applications forms within the stipulated time. The portal, initially opened pursuant to public notice dated 26.02.2026, was thereafter reopened on more than one occasion, thereby extending sufficient opportunity to comply with requisite formalities. Despite such repeated extensions and explicit intimation, the petitioner failed to submit her application form within the prescribed time. The said conduct clearly reflects negligence and lack of due diligence on the part of the petitioner. Therefore, interference by this Court in such circumstances would not only be unwarranted but would also disrupt the sanctity of selection process.

5. In view of the foregoing reasons, no ground is made out for interference by this Court in the facts and circumstances of the present case.

6. Accordingly, the writ petition is dismissed with no order as to costs.

**(NAMIT KUMAR)**  
**JUDGE**

**27.03.2026**  
sanjeev

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