



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

136	CWP-13172-2026 Date of Decision: 05.05.2026	
Sanjeet Kumar	Versus	Petitioner
State of Haryana and others		Respondents
139	CWP-13674-2026	
Dharambir Singh	Versus	Petitioner
The Additional Chief Secretary and others		Respondents
140	CWP-13696-2026	
Rudransh Gupta	Versus	Petitioner
The Additional Chief Secretary and others		Respondents
141	CWP-13730-2026	
Sanjay Kumar	Versus	Petitioner
The Additional Chief Secretary and others		Respondents
153	CWP-13693-2026	
Mohit	Versus	Petitioner
The Additional Chief Secretary and others		Respondents
154	CWP-13734-2026	
Saroj	Versus	Petitioner
The Additional Chief Secretary and others		Respondents



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and other connected cases

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

Present: Mr. Divyam Singh, Advocate
for the petitioner in CWP-13172-2026.

Mr. Ajay Kumar Dahiya, Advocate and
Ms. Aditi Singh, Advocate
for the petitioners in CWPs No.13674, 13696, 13730, 13693
and 13734 of 2026.

Mr. Deepak Bhardwaj, Additional Advocate General, Haryana
for the respondents in all the cases.

SUVIR SEHGAL, J. (ORAL)

1. This singular order shall dispose of the above noted six petitions, as they involve common questions of law and facts. For the sake of convenience, factual position is being noticed from CWP-13172-2026.
2. This petition has been filed for issuance of a writ of certiorari for setting aside memo dated 30.03.2026, Annexure P-7, whereby e-auction proceedings conducted on 12.02.2026 have been rejected. A direction has been sought to the respondents to issue an allotment letter and give possession of Plot No.140, New Grain Market, Kharkhoda, Sonipat, to petitioner.
3. Brief facts deserve to be noticed. By virtue of advertisement, Annexure P-1, Market Committee, Kharkhoda, invited participation in e-auction for commercial sale of plots of various sizes in New Grain Market, Kharkhoda, to be conducted on 12.02.2026. On deposit of necessary charges, petitioner participated in the auction. He was the highest bidder for Plot No.140 at Rs.38,77,000/- against reserve price of Rs.30,47,000/-. In compliance with the terms and conditions of the auction, petitioner deposited



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a total of 10% of bid amount within stipulated period, but by virtue of impugned memo, e-auction of Plot No.140 has been rejected by the Haryana State Agriculture Marketing Board (HSAMB) and Market Committee, Kharkhoda, has been directed to refund the deposited amount.

4. Counsel for the petitioner has contended that petitioner is entitled to the issuance of an allotment letter as he is the highest bidder. It has been contended that bid could not have been cancelled moreso, without assigning any reason. Placing reliance upon the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Golden Food Products India vs. State of Uttar Pradesh and others, 2026(2) SCR 47**, it has been emphasized that the petitioner deserves to be given an opportunity of hearing before cancelling of the highest bid.

5. Advance copy of the petition has been served upon the respondents.

6. Mr. Deepak Bhardwaj, Additional Advocate General, Haryana, puts in appearance on behalf of respondents. He has asserted that auction has been cancelled in accordance with the policy framed by the respondents. He states that as petitioner is an intending purchaser, he cannot question the logic behind the cancellation.

7. We have considered the contentions raised by counsel for the parties and have examined the documents appended with the petition.

8. In ***Golden Food Products India's case (supra)***, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has observed as under:-

“32. An auction process has a sanctity attached to it and only for valid reasons that the highest bid can be discarded in an auction which is otherwise held in accordance with law. If a valid bid has



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been made which is above the reserve price, there should be a rationale or reason for not accepting it. Therefore, the decision to discard the highest bid must have a nexus to the rationale or the reason. Merely because the authority conducting the auction expected a higher bid than what the highest bidder had bid cannot be a reason to discard the highest bid. In the instant case, no other party had placed a bid higher than the appellant herein. There was no infirmity in the conduct of the auction. No other party had complained about the process of auction conducted by the GDA - respondent No.2. The bid offered by the appellant herein was the highest and above the reserve price. In the circumstances, the said bid ought to have been accepted by GDA - respondent No.2 rather than cancelling the same without notice to the appellant herein. Hence, the cancellation of the bid submitted by the appellant herein is quashed.”

9. A perusal of the impugned communication shows that the competent authority has not given any ground for rejecting the highest bid. The impugned communication simply states that approval of e-auction held on 12.02.2026 is rejected. No reason whatsoever has been given while rejecting the highest bid. There is no allegation of fraud or irregularity or corrupt practice. In the absence thereof, competent authority is required to justify its action. In **Golden Food Products India's case (supra)**, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has observed that there should be a rationale or reason for discarding the highest bid, which cannot be cancelled without notice to the highest bidder. Consequently, impugned action cannot be sustained.

10. For the foregoing reasons, impugned memo dated 30.03.2026, Annexure P-7, is set aside. Competent authority is directed to pass a fresh order after affording an opportunity of hearing to the petitioner. The necessary



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exercise be concluded within a period of four months from the date of communication of a copy of this order.

11. All the writ petitions are accordingly disposed of.

(SUVIR SEHGAL)
JUDGE

May 05, 2026
Varinder

(VIKAS SURI)
JUDGE

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