

2026:PHHC:019168



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

109

CWP-38845-2025 (O&M)

Date of decision: February 09, 2026

RAJPAL

...Petitioner

Versus

CHAUDHARY BANSI LAL UNIVERSITY AND OTHERS

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE TRIBHUVAN DAHIYA

Present: Mr. Devender Arya, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Naman Jain, Advocate
for the respondent-University.

TRIBHUVAN DAHIYA, J. (ORAL)

CM-1566-CWP-2026

For the reasons stated, the application is allowed, and short reply on behalf of the respondent-University is taken on record.

Main case

The petition has been filed seeking a writ of *certiorari* quashing the advertisements dated 26.10.2020 and 19.01.2022, Annexures P-1 and P-2 respectively, and the consequential recruitment process carried out in terms thereof for the post of Assistant Professor (Geography).

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner contended that the University invited applications for two posts of Assistant Professor (Geography); one under EWS category and the other under Unreserved category. The petitioner applied for the post as EWS category candidate and cleared the

Screening Test held on 17.08.2022. As per result dated 15.03.2023, he was

shown as one of the candidates shortlisted for interview under EWS category. The University, however, revised the result, vide notice dated 02.11.2023, Annexure P-9, and showed him as shortlisted candidate under Unreserved category. There was no reason for changing his category from EWS to Unreserved. It has also been pointed out that another candidate/Dinesh Goyat has been shortlisted at number one under both the categories. Also, that the University has withdrawn advertisements for various other posts which were issued along with the advertisements in question, vide withdrawal notice dated 15.07.2025, Annexure P-10. No reason has been mentioned for excluding the instant advertisements therefrom.

3. *Per contra*, learned counsel for the University has referred to the short reply filed on its behalf to contend that the petitioner's name was provisionally included in the list of shortlisted candidates under EWS category. They were asked to submit the requisite documents, including the EWS income certificate for the financial year(s) 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, vide email dated 24.08.2023, but the petitioner submitted the certificate for the financial year 2020-2021 only and was, therefore, placed under General category. He also contends that the post in question was first advertised vide advertisement dated 26.10.2020, but the selection process could not be initiated in terms thereof and the post was re-advertised vide advertisement dated 19.01.2022, for which the closing date to apply was 08.02.2022. In terms of condition 30, the candidates were required to update their biodata in the application form with reference to their previous application and,

accordingly, they were to submit the EWS certificate for financial year 2021-2022 as well. As the petitioner failed to submit the same, his candidature was rightly considered as General category candidate. The selection however has not been finalized as yet, as the matter is pending for final approval with the State Government.

4. Heard.

5. As apparent on record, the petitioner applied for the post in question pursuant to the first advertisement dated 26.10.2020. The post was re-advertised on 19.01.2022, and in terms of stipulation 30 contained therein, the candidates were only required to upload their biodata in the application form giving reference of the previous application. The said condition is to the following effect:

30. Candidates who have already applied against this University advt. no. CBLU/Estt./T-1//02/2020 need not to apply. However, such candidates may update their biodata in Application form giving reference of their previous applications (if he/she falls in his/her category in this advertisement).

It is not disputed that the petitioner was found eligible and shortlisted for interview as EWS category candidate. In response to email dated 24.08.2023, he submitted a valid EWS category certificate for the financial year 2020-2021 as well, but the reason for not considering his candidature under the category is his failure to furnish such certificate for the financial year 2021-2022. There is no explicit stipulation in the advertisement dated 19.01.2022, for the candidates who had earlier applied for the post in response to advertisement dated 26.10.2020, to submit a fresh EWS category

certificate for the financial year 2021-2022. Reliance by learned counsel for the University on condition 30 in that regard is misplaced as it does not require the candidates to submit such a certificate; the only requirement for the candidates is to update their biodata in the application form, which cannot be construed as a pre-requisite to upload a valid EWS category certificate for the subsequent financial year. Even otherwise, the petitioner's candidature has been considered based upon his application submitted in response to the first advertisement dated 26.10.2020, and in terms therewith the requirement was to submit EWS category certificate for the financial year 2020-2021, which he has already submitted. Accordingly, he is required to be considered as EWS category candidate for the post in question.

6. However, this Court does not find any ground to set aside the impugned advertisements, nor has learned counsel for the petitioner come up with any argument to sustain the claim.

7. Accordingly, the petition is partially allowed, directing the University to consider the petitioner's candidature for the post of Assistant Professor (Geography) under EWS category, and announce the selection result thereafter.

February 09, 2026
Jaspreet Kaur

(TRIBHUVAN DAHIYA)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned : *Yes/No*

Whether reportable : *Yes/No*