



112

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CWP-2423-2026

Date of Decision : 09.03.2026

Ramdiya and Others

...Petitioners

Versus

Guru Jambheshwar University of Science
and Technology and Another

....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE TRIBHUVAN DAHIYAPresent: Mr. Ashutosh Kaushik, Advocate for the petitioners
(through Video Conferencing).Mr. Puneet Gupta, Advocate and
Mr. Ravindra Singh, Advocate for
the respondents.**TRIBHUVAN DAHIYA, J. (ORAL)**

The petition has been filed, *inter alia*, seeking a writ of *certiorari* quashing the announcement/notice dated 17.07.2025, Annexure P-16, whereby in terms of letter issued by the Chief Secretary dated 13.11.2024, regarding classification of Scheduled Castes (SC) as Deprived Scheduled Castes (DSC) and Other Scheduled Castes (OSC), the University has bifurcated the posts of SC category advertised vide advertisements dated 07.12.2023, 13.06.2024 and 05.07.2024.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioners contended that the petitioners are applicants for the posts of Assistant Professor in different Departments against the aforementioned three advertisements. The last dates to apply for the posts in question were 27.12.2023, 01.07.2024 and 29.07.2024. They participated in the selection process as Scheduled Castes (SC) category

Candidates against the posts reserved for them and cleared the written test as

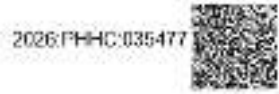


well. However, before holding the interviews the University issued the impugned announcement/notice dated 17.07.2025, whereby the SC category posts against which the petitioners had applied were classified as DSC and OSC category posts. Resultantly, the petitioners have been rendered ineligible as they do not belong to the sub-categories to which the SC category posts they applied against have been changed. This is in violation of the settled law that after initiation of the selection process, the rules of the selection cannot be changed. He also contends that interviews for these posts have not been held so far.

3. Learned counsel for the respondents-University is not in a position to dispute that the notification dated 13.11.2024, Annexure P-17, as also the impugned notice dated 17.07.2025, have been issued after the closing date for submission of applications.

4. It is well settled principle of law that once the process of selection begins, it has to be concluded in terms of stipulations in the advertisement. The University has however done the opposite by issuing the impugned notice, which renders the petitioners ineligible after they have participated in the selection process as eligible candidates. This is impermissible. Reference in this regard can be made to the law laid down by the Supreme Court in SLP (C) no.17747 of 2023 titled *Prabhjot Kaur v. State of Punjab and others*, decided on 09.04.2025, wherein it has been held as under:

16. The roster on which the private respondent is relying upon came later, on 29.01.2021, even after the last date for submitting applications under the subsequent advertisement no.14 of 11.12.2020 had passed. Hence, it cannot influence the rights and entitlements of those who had applied and taken part in the recruitment process under the advertisement no.14 of 11.12.2020. The recruitment process



had begun with the publication of the advertisement calling for applications and the process ends with filling of the vacancies. The selection process had begun and midway changes could not have taken place.

5. In view thereof, the petition is allowed and the impugned notice, dated 17.07.2025, is hereby set aside directing the respondents to complete the selection process in terms of the advertisements already issued.

March 09, 2026
Ps

(TRIBHUVAN DAHIYA)
JUDGE

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