CNR No: PHHC011492172026
2026:PHHC:181512-DB

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

(202-1) **CWP-28493-2026**

RAYNA NAG **…PETITIONER**

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB AND OTHERS **…RESPONDENTS**

Judgment Reserved on	Judgment Pronounced on	Judgment Uploaded on	Whether only the operative part of the judgment is pronounced	Whether the full judgment is pronounced
25.09.2026	29.09.2026	29.09.2026	No	Yes

CORAM:- HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUVIR SEHGAL
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJESH GAUR

Present:- Mr. D.S. Patwalia, Senior Advocate with
Mr. A.S. Chadha, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Vipin Pal Yadav, Additional Advocate General, Punjab,
for respondent No.1.

Mr. Akash, Advocate for
Mr. Nitin Kaushal, Advocate,
for respondent No.2/BFUHS.

Mr. Sumeet Jain, Additional Standing Counsel with
Mr. Akash Jain, Advocate,
for respondent No.3-U.T. Chandigarh.

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SUVIR SEHGAL, J.

1) Petitioner has invoked the writ jurisdiction of this Court seeking, *inter alia*, quashing of public notice dated 28.08.2026, Annexure P-10, to the extent she has been debarred from consideration for admission against 85% Punjab State Quota seats for M.B.B.S. course for the academic session 2026-27

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and for a consequential direction to respondent No.2-Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot (BFUHS), to consider her candidature for admission in accordance with NEET (UG) - 2026 merit.

2) The controversy lies in a narrow compass. Petitioner appeared in NEET (UG) - 2026 and secured 548 marks out of 720. Petitioner's mother is an ETT teacher and has been posted at Jawaharpur, Punjab since 2013. Being eligible, petitioner registered with BFUHS and applied for admission under the Punjab State Quota pursuant to admission notification dated 10.07.2026, Annexure P-3. Her name figured in the provisional merit list circulated by BFUHS. In the meanwhile, Government Medical College & Hospital, Sector-32, Chandigarh (GMCH), issued prospectus, Annexure P-6, in respect to admission to medical courses for academic session 2026-27 on 13.08.2026. Petitioner created a login/registration ID on the portal of GMCH and filled in certain particulars required for claiming admission against the U.T. quota of Chandigarh. Before the publication of the first provisional merit list by GMCH, through a communication dated 19.08.2026, Annexure P-6A, she withdrew her registration initiated on the GMCH portal. On 20.08.2026, Annexure P-7, GMCH displayed a provisional combined merit list of candidates, wherein against petitioner's name at serial no.110, it was recorded 'Not eligible, candidature withdrawn by the candidate. Appendix A1 & Appendix A5 not submitted'. Petitioner informed BFUHS of this development vide an e-mail dated 26.08.2026, Annexure P-11. By virtue of impugned public notice, Annexure P-10, BFUHS debarred petitioner from consideration for admission against 85% Punjab State Quota on the ground that she had applied for

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admission in U.T. Chandigarh.

3) Upon notice, writ petition has been contested by the respondents by filing separate responses. In their separate written statements, respondent Nos. 1 and 2-BFUHS, have opposed the petition on the strength of Clause 18 of the admission notification, Annexure P-3. A stand has been taken that the condition governing admission under Punjab State Quota prohibits a candidate from claiming or availing benefit of State Quota eligibility in another State/U.T. and also provides that the candidate should not have submitted an application or any other document for claiming such consideration. According to the aforesaid respondents, subsequent withdrawal of the registration by petitioner cannot obliterate the fact that she had sought consideration under U.T. Chandigarh Quota. It has been further stated that petitioner has been debarred from consideration under the Punjab State Quota on the basis of an email, Annexure R2/2, received from GMCH, intimating that some students, including the petitioner, had applied under both the Chandigarh and Punjab State Quota. The impugned public notice is issued on the basis of the communication from the GMCH. It has also been stated that in deference to the interim order passed by this Court, petitioner has been allotted a seat under the government quota in General Category at Punjab Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Jalandhar, subject to the final outcome of the writ petition. Respondent No.3-GMCH has filed a status report by way of an affidavit of its Director-Principal, deposing that an application dated 19.08.2026 had been submitted for withdrawal of petitioner’s candidature. A meeting was held on the same day and vide minutes, Annexure R-3/2, she was declared as ineligible.

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4) We have heard counsel for the parties, considered their submissions and examined the documents relied upon by them.

5) It is a settled legal position that conditions contained in a prospectus or admission notification ordinarily bind all the candidates as well as the admission authority. The legal position has been discussed by this Bench in ***Japuji Kaur Bains versus Union Territory of Chandigarh and others***, *Law Finder Docket ID # 2982538*. The conditions laid down in the prospectus or admission notification have to be applied uniformly to all the candidates.

6) In this background, it is necessary to examine the relevant clauses of the admission notification. Clause 18 of the admission notification, Annexure P-3, provides as under:-

> *"18. Declaration submitted by the candidate*
>
> *The Candidate and his/her Parent/Guardian shall submit a duly sworn affidavit/declaration affirming that:*
>
> *I. The candidate has claimed eligibility and sought consideration for admission under the State Quota of Punjab only and has not claimed, sought, or availed the benefit of State Quota eligibility in any other State/Union Territory for admission to MBBS/BDS courses for the same academic session.*
>
> *II. The candidate has not submitted any application, affidavit, undertaking, declaration, or any other document claiming domicile, residence, bonafide resident status, or any similar eligibility for the purpose of seeking admission under the State Quota seats of any other State/Union Territory.*
>
> *III. In the event it is found at any stage that the candidate has sought, claimed, or availed the benefit of State Quota admission in any other State/Union Territory, or that any information furnished in the declaration is false, incorrect, or misleading, the candidature/admission of the candidate shall be liable to be cancelled forthwith, in addition to any other action*

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permissible under law, rules, regulations, or the admission prospectus.

IV. The candidate and the Parent/Guardian further undertake to indemnify the Government of Punjab, the Department of Medical Education and Research, Punjab, Baba Farid University of Health Sciences and the concerned institution against any consequences arising from any false declaration or suppression of material facts."

7) The above reproduced condition debars a candidate from claiming, seeking or availing of benefit of State Quota in any other State/U.T. for admission to the M.B.B.S. or B.D.S. course during the same academic session. It has been enjoined that a candidate should not have submitted any application, affidavit, undertaking, declaration or any other document for seeking admission under State Quota seats of any other State/U.T.

8) Coming to the facts of the present case, it is undisputed that petitioner had created a login ID and registered herself with the GMCH portal. She filled certain particulars online, but she neither completed the application form, nor did she upload the requisite certificates or documents. It is also undisputed that petitioner did not submit an undertaking or affidavit that she has not opted or claimed benefit of residence in any other State/U.T. with the GMCH. It is evident that she did not complete the procedure for filling of the application form as laid down in the GMCH prospectus, Annexure P-6. Even before the provisional combined merit list of candidates, Annexure P-7, was released by GMCH, by application, Annexure P-6A, her candidature was withdrawn stating that she is seeking admission in the Punjab State Quota. In the provisional combined merit list of GMCH, Annexure P-7, it had been specifically mentioned that petitioner had withdrawn her candidature and that

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she had not submitted the requisite certificates. It is apparent that petitioner never derived any advantage of the U.T. Chandigarh Quota. She neither participated in the counseling with the GMCH, nor was she considered for allotment of U.T. Chandigarh Quota seat. Rather, she abandoned the U.T. admission process and opted to pursue her application under Punjab State Quota with BFUHS.

9) Clause 18 of the admission notification, Annexure P-3, relied upon by contesting respondents, cannot be applied mechanically. The expression "claimed, sought or availed the benefit of State Quota eligibility in any other State/U.T. for admission" has to be understood in the context in which it has been used. Mere creation of a login ID or registration and entry of some particulars, without statutory declaration, cannot be taken to be a claim to a seat in another State/U.T. Moreover, even before the provisional merit list could be uploaded, petitioner had categorically withdrawn her candidature from U.T. Chandigarh Quota.

10) The objective behind Clause 18 is to prevent a candidate from simultaneously competing for State Quota in two States/U.T.s and thereby securing an unfair advantage over other candidates. As is evident from the facts of the present case, petitioner never submitted a complete application for claim under the U.T. Quota with the GMCH. The bar under Clause 18 would, therefore, not be applicable in the case of the petitioner. Consequently, the impugned action debarring the petitioner from consideration against 85% Punjab State Quota, solely on the basis of an incomplete registration on GMCH portal, cannot be sustained.

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11) For the afore-going reasons, writ petition is allowed. Impugned public notice dated 28.08.2026, Annexure P-10, is quashed, qua the petitioner only. Respondent No.2-BFUHS is directed to forthwith consider petitioner for admission to the MBBS course against the allocated seat under the 85% Punjab State Quota.

12) All the pending miscellaneous application(s), if any, stands disposed of.

(SUVIR SEHGAL)
JUDGE

(RAJESH GAUR)
JUDGE

29.09.2026
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Whether Speaking/Reasoned	Yes/No
Whether Reportable	Yes/No

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