

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 21/2026

NIKHIL KUMAR PUNIA & ANR.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

Date : 28-01-2026 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

For Petitioner(s) : Dr. Siddhartha Priya Ashok, AOR
Ms. Trisha Chakraborty, Adv.
Mr. C.P. Singh, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

1. This petition has been moved by the petitioners, who are purportedly claiming to be belonging to Buddhist minority community. While going through the record, we find that the certificates of minority community dated 17.02.2025 have been issued by the Sub Divisional Officer (C), Hisar in favour of Nikhil Kumar Punia S/o Krishan Kumar and Ekta D/o Krishan Kumar, both being residents of House No.115, Block-2, VTC Satroad Kalan, District Hisar.

2. The record further reveals that both the candidates while applying to the National Board of Examination in Medical Sciences disclosed themselves as 'general category candidates'. The forms submitted to this effect (Annexures P/6 and P/7) are also on record. On a further inquiry, we have ascertained from the counsel

for the applicants that both the candidates belong to general category by birth. Therefore, It appears that the issuance of Minority Community certificates by the Sub Divisional Officer (C) requires a deeper probe by the higher authorities, especially in light of the fact that while appearing in NEET-PG 2025 examination, the candidates appeared as general category candidates. The counsel for the applicants has further categorically mentioned that they do not belong to Economically Weaker Sections of society, hence, the question arises how have they managed to become candidates belonging to minority community?

3. We would like to know from the Chief Secretary, State of Haryana as to: (i) What are the guidelines for issuing the minority community certificate? (ii) Is it permissible that upper class general category candidates, who are not a member of the Economically Weaker Sections of the society and who disclosed their identity as general category candidates in 2025 NEET PG examination, be permitted to convert into Buddhist minority community? (iii) If not, what was the basis for the Sub Divisional Officer (C) to issue the subject certificate? And (iv) The further directions will depend upon the status report that is required to be submitted by the State of Haryana within two weeks.

4. The prayer seeking admission as candidates belonging to minority community is, accordingly, dismissed.

5. Post the matter on 25.03.2026.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI T.C.)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR