



CM No. 16626 of 2025 in/and CWP-25387 of 2024

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

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**CM No. 16626 of 2025in/and
CWP-25387 of 2024
Date of decision: 14.11.2025**

Harpreet Singh Dua and another**....Petitioners****V/S****Panjab University and others.****... Respondents**

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SHEEL NAGU, CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJIV BERRY, JUDGE**

Present: Mr. R. Kartikeya, Advocate,
Ms. R. Akanksha, Advocate,
Ms. Sidhi Bansal, Advocate,
Mr. Kartik Patial, Advocate and
Ms. Ridhi Bansal, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Satya Pal Jain, Addl. Solicitor General of India with
Ms. Neha Sharma, Senior Panel Counsel (through V.C)
for respondent no. 1/UOI.

Mr. Akshay Kumar Goel,
Advocate for the respondent no.1/Panjab University.

Mr. Saurav Verma, Addl. Advocate General, Punjab.

SHEEL NAGU, CHIEF JUSTICE (Oral)**CM-16626 of 2025**

Civil Miscellaneous Application No. 16626 of 2025 has been filed
praying for following reliefs:-

- i) Direct respondents to declared notify the Election Schedule for Election to the various consequences of the Senate forthwith;
- ii) Direct respondents to strictly adhere to the Election Schedule which may be notified;
- iii) Exempt filing certified copies of annexures and to the permit filing photocopies/true typed copies;
- iv) Grant any other relief which this Hon'ble Court may deem fit in the facts and circumstance of the present case.

MAIN CASE:-

With the consent of learned counsel for rival parties, main case is
preponed for today itself for hearing of this matter.



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1. The present writ petition, filed in the year 2024 raises a grievance regarding the non-holding of elections to the Senate of Panjab University as mandated u/s 11 of the Panjab University Act, 1947 (for short 'The Act of 1947'). Under the Act, the Senate is vested with the management and superintendence of all affairs, concerns and property of the University.

2. The Act of 1947, along with Chapter II(B) of the Regulations and Appendix F(i), sets out the detailed procedure and schedule for the election of Ordinary Fellows, including the timeline from initiation of the election process till the counting of ballot papers. The election is held through the process of Single Transferable Vote.

3. The petitioner seeks a direction for notifying the Senate elections, which was last held in 2021. The term of the elected body expired on 31.10.2024 and no elections have been held since then.

4. During the pendency of this petition, certain developments have taken place which are of relevance. On 28.10.2025, widespread amendments restructuring the Senate were introduced in the Act of 1947. However, these amendments were withdrawn on 04.11.2025. Incidentally on the very same day i.e. 04.11.2025, the Central Government issued further notifications reserving the right to notify the constitution of the Senate at a Subsequent date. These notifications were modified and reiterated on the same day. Ultimately, on 07.11.2025, these notifications were also rescinded.

5. In view of these recent developments in the first and second week of November 2025, Sh. Satya Pal Jain, Additional Solicitor General of India, appearing for the Chancellor, has informed the Court that the process for holding the Senate elections shall be commenced as expeditiously as possible.



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6. Learned counsel for respondent/Panjab University inter alia informs that due to non-holding of Senate elections, certain agitations are taking place in the University, resulting in disruptions to its academic activities, which constitute the primary function of the University.

7. This Court reminds the students that their admission to the University by their parents is fundamentally for the purpose of receiving education and thus the prime focus of all students should remain acquisition of knowledge. Academic activities cannot be compromised or sacrificed at the altar of electoral or political aspirations.

8. Learned counsel for petitioner has given up Prayer No. 2 in the writ petition.

9. Without entering into the merits, this Court disposes of this petition, with the hope and expectation that elections to the Senate will be conducted as expeditiously as possible.

9.1 The petitioner is granted liberty to revisit this Court, in case the cause remains unredressed.

10. All pending Civil Miscellaneous application(s), if any, also stand disposed of.

(SHEEL NAGU)
CHIEF JUSTICE

(SANJIV BERRY)
JUDGE

14.11.2025

Kamal Gandhi

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