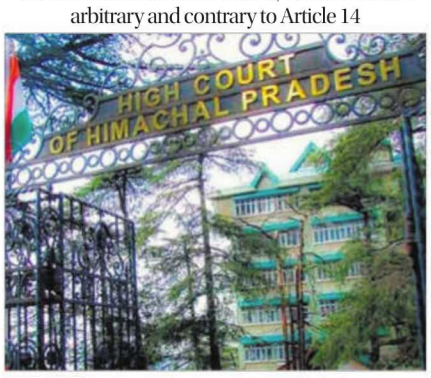
# HC sets November 10 deadline for HPERC chief appointment

Court quashes state's rejection of selection committee recommendations, terms decision arbitrary and contrary to Article 14




TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, OCTOBER 28

The Himachal Pradesh High Court has directed the state government to complete the appointment process for the chairperson of the Himachal Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (HPERC) by November 10 on the basis of recommendations made by the selection committee.

A division bench comprising Justice Vivek Singh Thakur and Justice Bhupesh Sharma held that the government's decision to reject the committee's recommendations was arbitrary, irrational and beyond its domain.

"We are of the considered opinion that the action to reject the recommendations of the selection committee is arbitrary and arbitrariness is an antithesis of the equality clause contained in Article 14 of the Constitution of India. Thus, the impugned decision is not sustainable, being arbitrary, irrational and beyond the domain of the government," the court observed.

The order came on a petition filed by Pankaj Rai, a 2014-batch IAS officer, challenging the rejection of the selection panel on September 16, 2025. He had sought a fair and time-bound conclusion to the appointment process.

As many as 16 candidates had applied for the post, of whom 12 appeared for interviews. The selection committee recommended two names, including Rai for chairperson and Rajiv Sood for member. The recommendations were subsequently placed before the Chief Minister, who rejected them.

The court observed that the rejection on the ground that the recommended candidate did not enjoy the status of those who had previously held the post was arbitrary. It noted that the committee's minutes showed that the candidates' biodata, qualifications, experience, knowledge and capabilities had been considered.

Opposing the petition, the state government argued that Rai had no legal right to claim appointment merely because his name figured in the selection panel. It maintained that rejecting the recommendations was a policy decision taken in public interest.

The government also contended that the selection committee had not recorded reasons for its recommendations and that several other applicants had greater seniority and experience in the power sector.

These included three former chief secretaries — Ram Subhag Singh, Sanjay Gupta and Prabodh Saxena, belonging to the 1987, 1988 and 1990 IAS batches, respectively — while Rai belongs to the 2014 batch.

The court has now directed the government to proceed with the appointment in accordance with the selection committee's recommendations within the stipulated deadline.

The persons arrested in connection with the stone-pelting and violent clash between members of the Valmiki and Sikh communities.

# 11 held over Nahan clash between 2 communities

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NAHAN, OCTOBER 28

The Sirmaur police have arrested 11 persons in connection with the stone-pelting and violent clash between members of the Valmiki and Sikh communities at Valmiki Chowk in Nahan on October 23. The accused were arrested on Tuesday and produced before a court today, which remanded them in police custody for three days.

The incident had left police personnel and members of both communities injured, besides causing damage to public and private property. Taking note of the seriousness of the matter, the Nahan police intensified the investigation to identify those involved in the violence.

According to the police, five of the arrested persons belong to the Valmiki locality, while six are residents of Govindgarh locality in Nahan.

Those arrested from the Valmiki locality have been identified as Vasu (37), Shivraj (29), Vidya Sagar, alias Rahul (31), Aryan (19) and Aryaveer, alias Adi. Those from Govindgarh include Prakash Singh, alias Badal (24), Kulwinder Singh, alias Khoju (24), Sukhwinder Singh, alias Gappu (21), Gurjeet Singh, alias Gujju (27), Tejpal Singh, alias Teju (19) and Sohan Singh (21).

Sirmaur Superintendent of Police Nishchint Singh Negi said, "The investigation is underway to identify all those involved in the incident and further legal action will be taken on the basis of the evidence collected." The police said the role of other persons allegedly involved in the incident was also being investigated. Further legal action would be taken in accordance with the evidence and facts emerging during the probe.

The arrests come amid heightened security in Nahan following the clash and apprehensions of fresh tension around Valmiki Chowk. The district administration has imposed prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, in specified areas of the town till October 29 to prevent any further escalation.

The Sirmaur police have appealed to residents to maintain peace, communal harmony and mutual brotherhood. They have also urged people not to believe rumours or circulate unverified or provocative content on social media.

# 16 liquor vends sealed over suspected repackaging racket

## Labels, caps of premium brands recovered during raids

PALAMPUR, OCTOBER 28

The state government on Tuesday sealed 16 liquor vends in Bhawarna and adjoining areas, about 10 days after more than 400 boxes of liquor were seized from two locations in the area.

The liquor seized during the raids was meant exclusively for sale in Chandigarh and cannot be sold in Himachal. The investigation also revealed that the liquor was allegedly being rebottled to pass it off as premium brands. Labels and caps bearing the names of premium brands were recovered during the raids, pointing to a suspected racket involving illegal repackaging and sale of liquor.

A senior Excise Department officer said the persons from whom the liquor was recovered had direct or indirect interests in the 16 vends, which is why they were sealed. The action follows the department's investigation into suspected links between the seized stock and the illegal liquor trade in the area. The government is also imposing heavy penalties on the defaulters, besides initiating action under law.

Meanwhile, the Excise Department has sent a proposal to the state government for the early re-auction of the sealed vends, so that their closure does not hurt government revenue. Further scrutiny of the alleged racket is expected to establish the extent of the network and the involvement of those connected with the outlets.

The liquor seized during a raid in Kangra district recently. >>

pnb Housing
REGD. OFF:- 9TH FLOOR, ANTRIKSH BHAWAN, 22, K.G. MARG, NEW DELHI-110001, PH.: 011-23357171, 23357172, 23705414, Web.: www.pnbhousing.com
Branch Address: 2nd Floor, SCO-11, Sector 14, Karnal – 132001, Haryana.

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the PNB Housing Finance Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & in compliance of Rule 8(1) of Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice/s on the date mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice/s)/ date of receipt of the said notice/s. The borrower/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each account. The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of PNB Housing Finance Ltd., for the amount and interest thereon as per loan agreement. The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

| Loan A/c No(s). & Branch | Name of Borrower/ Co-borrower/Guarantor(s)/ Legal Heirs | Date of Demand Notice | Amount O/s as on Date Demand Notice | Date of Possession taken | Description of the Property/ies Mortgaged |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 00076 70000 3269 B.O.: Karnal | Mr. Hardeep Singh S/o Surinder Pal Singh (Borrower) And Mr. Karandeep Chauhan S/o Balbir Singh Chauhan (Guarantor) | 24-Jul-2026 | Rs. 6,35,419.45/- (Rupees Six Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Four Hundred Nineteen and Forty Five Paisa Only) due as on 24.07.2026 | 24.10.2026 (Symbolic) | House Bearing M.C No. B-III/375 And Khasra No. 534 Measuring 19' X 61' Situated At Ward No. 9, Krishna Nagar, Indri Road, Ladwa District Kurukshetra, Sale deed No. 7241 Dated 08.08.2000, Bounded As; North: Street South; House Of Ghanshyam Dass East: House Of Shingara Ram West: House Of Munshi Ram |
| NHL/KAR/ 0718/556 016, B.O.: Karnal | Mr. Rajneesh Jhorar and Smt. Sunita Kulwant | 11-Aug-2026 | Rs. 64,48,866.58 (Rupees Sixty Four Lakh Forty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Six and Fifty Eight Paisa Only) due as on 11.08.2026 | 24.10.2026 (Symbolic) | House / Plot No. 509, Measuring 208.94 Sq. Mtrs. 10 Marla, Sector 15 AP, Urban Estate, Misar, Haryana, 125001 |

PLACE:- KARNAL, DATE:- 28.10.2026 SD/-, AUTHORIZED OFFICER, PNB HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Bank of Maharashtra
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Asset Recovery Branch - SCO 44, Sector 29-D, Chandigarh - 160030, Ph.: 0172-2713010, 2548889
E-mail: brmgr1949@bankofmaharashtra.bank.in
Head Office: 'LOKMANGAL', 1501 Shivajinagar, PUNE 411 005

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Inspection Date & Time of the Property 02.11.2026 to 16.11.2026 by prior appointment between 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Date & Time of E-Auction: 18.11.2026, Wednesday, 11:00 A.M. to 02:00 P.M. (with auto extension for 5 minutes in case bid is placed within last 5 minutes)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the **Bank of Maharashtra**, the possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Bank of Maharashtra**, will be sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS"**, **"AS IS WHAT IS"** and **"WHATEVER THERE IS"** on **18.11.2026**, for recovery of the balance due to the **Bank of Maharashtra** from the Borrower (s) and Guarantor(s) as mentioned in the table. Details of the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s, amount due, Short description of the immovable property and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price and the earnest money deposit are also given as under:-

| Sr. No. | Branch Name / Name & Address of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s) | Brief Description of Property/ies | Total Liabilities as on specified Date | Reserve Price | Earnest Money Deposit / Bid Increase Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | **Branch: ARB, Chandigarh, SCO 44, 1st Floor, Sector 29-D, Chandigarh - 160029. Sh. Deepak Kumar Dandapat, M:- 9340350800, E-mail: recovery_chd@bankofmaharashtra.bank.in, brmgr1949@bankofmaharashtra.bank.in**<br>**Borrower(s):- M/s Luxmi Sweets** through Prop. - **Sh. Krishan Kumar** S/o Remal Dass, **Address:-** Marla Colony, Near Mangal Deep Fatehabad, Haryana - 125050. **Guarantor(s):- Mrs. Neelam Rani** W/o Mr. Krishan Kumar, **Address:-** Marla Colony, Near Mangal Deep, Fatehabad, Haryana -125050. | Equitable Mortgage Residential Property bearing Plot / House MC No. 298 measuring 119 Sq. Yards or 1071 Sq. Ft. Basti Bhiwan (Old Abadi Mohalla), Tehsil & Distt. Fatehabad Registered before Sub-Registrar Fatehabad in the name of Smt. Neelam Rani W/o Krishan Kumar vide transfer deed No. 7086 dated 07.01.2016 and **bounded as under:- East:** Common Street; **West:** Amar Jyoti Mandir; **North:** House of Hans Raj; **South:** House of Deepak Jagga.<br>**Litigation: Suit Filed by the Bank against the Borrower on 11.10.2023 in DRT 2 Chandigarh with OA No. 1528/2023 on 29.01.2026, Order passed, OA has been allowed in favor of Bank. RC/71/2026, Pending in the Court of RO, DRT-2, Chandigarh.** | **Rs. 27,54,587/-** plus interest & expenses w.e.f. **09.03.2022** (less recovery affected thereafter, if any after **09.03.2022**). | **Rs. 29,25,000/-**<br>**Physical Possession taken on 25.03.2025** | **Rs. 2,92,500/- Rs. 20,000/-** |
| 2. | **Branch: ARB, Chandigarh, SCO 44, 1st Floor, Sector 29-D, Chandigarh - 160029. Sh. Deepak Kumar Dandapat, M:- 9340350800, E-mail: recovery_chd@bankofmaharashtra.bank.in, brmgr1949@bankofmaharashtra.bank.in**<br>**Borrower(s):- Mrs. Harjinder Kaur** W/o Mr. Dharamveer, **Address:-** H. No. 457 B, Railway Colony, Jagadhari Workshop, Jagadhari, Yamunanagar, Haryana - 135002. **2nd Address:-** House Property ID - 1KG3JHG3, Nanak Nagar, Near Shiv Mandir, Jagadhari, Yamunanagar, Haryana - 135002. **Co-Borrower(s):- Mr. Dharamveer** S/o Kasan Singh, **Address:-** H. No. 457 B, Railway Colony, Jagadhari Workshop, Jagadhari, Yamunanagar, Haryana - 135002. **2nd Address:-** House Property ID - 1KG3JHG3, Nanak Nagar, Near Shiv Mandir, Jagadhari, Yamunanagar, Haryana - 135002. | Equitable Mortgage of Residential House measuring 119 Sq. Yards being part of permanent property ID - 339C29U31B and new property ID - 1KG3JHG3 situated at Nanak Nagar, Nouja Farakpur, Yamunanagar, Tehsil Jagadhari, Distt. Yamunanagar within Municipal Limits of Municipal Corporation Yamunanagar - Jagadhari registered in the name of Mrs. Harjinder Kaur W/o Mr. Dharamveer Vide Sale Sale Deed No. 10155 Dated 01.01.2024 in the Office of Sub-Joint Registrar Jagadhari, Yamunanagar and **bounded as under:- East:** Remaining Part of House owned by Chander Mohan Singh; **West:** Passage 10 Ft. Wide; **North:** Remaining part of House; **South:** Remaining part of House owned by Lakhwinder Pal. **[CERSAI ASSET ID - 200077561087].**<br>**Litigation: Suit filed by the Bank against the borrower on 15.06.2026 in DRT-2, Chandigarh with OA No. 1218/2026. Next Listing Date 03.11.2026.** | **Rs. 30,57,161/-** plus interest & expenses w.e.f. **11.04.2025** (less recovery affected thereafter, if any after **11.04.2025**). | **Rs. 20,44,000/-**<br>**Physical Possession taken on 05.01.2026** | **Rs. 2,04,400/- Rs. 20,000/-** |

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link **https://bankofmaharashtra.bank.in/asset-for-sales-search** provided in the Bank's website and also on Baanknet Portal **https://baanknet.com/eauction-psb/home**.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The Borrower/s and Guarantor/s above named are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned along with up to dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Dated: 28.10.2026 Place: Chandigarh **Authorised Officer,** Bank of Maharashtra

# Himachal to engage 3,100 teachers for CBSE schools

SHIMLA, OCTOBER 28

The state government has approved the engagement of 3,100 teachers of various categories under different schemes for government schools affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in the second phase. A government spokesperson said here on Wednesday that the decision aims to strengthen the teaching faculty, ensure the availability of subject-specific teachers and improve the quality of education in government schools adopting the CBSE curriculum.

He said 600 teachers, including 240 English and 360 mathematics teachers, would be engaged under the sub-scheme for the Engagement of Professional English and Mathematics Teachers.

Another 2,500 teachers will be engaged on a fixed honorarium or consolidated amount basis under the scheme for government schools affiliated with the CBSE. CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said the government was committed to strengthening the education system. — TNS

# Nearly 29% of drug samples fail quality test in Sept alert

## 70 pharma units found supplying substandard products despite stepped-up regulatory action

AMBIKA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, OCTOBER 28

Nearly 29 per cent of drug samples manufactured in Himachal Pradesh and included in the latest monthly alert of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) have failed to meet quality standards, renewing concerns over pharmaceutical quality control in the state.

Of the 330 samples listed in the national alert for September, 95 were manufactured by 70 pharmaceutical units in Himachal. These included 48 tablet samples, 20 oral liquid formulations such as syrups and suspensions, 14 injections and intravenous (IV) fluids, and five capsules and soft gels.

Of the 95 samples, 70 failed important quality parameters, including assay, dissolution and the presence of particulate matter. Another 22 were found to have minor defects, including labelling-related deficiencies.

The detection of particulate matter in an injectable product is particularly concerning, as such defects can pose serious health risks and compromise patient safety. Despite regulatory action, pharmaceutical units in the Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh industrial belt and Paonta Sahib continue to figure in monthly quality alerts.

State Drugs Controller Dr Manish Kapoor said enforcement had been intensified against erring units, particularly repeat offenders. In 2026, action was taken against 46 units, including suspension of product approvals and complete or partial stoppage of manufacturing. This compared with 20 units in 2025 and 17 in 2024.

Kapoor said legal proceedings were also initiated against firms found violating provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. Over the past three years, 96 pharmaceutical facilities have faced complete or partial manufacturing stoppages. However, officials did not disclose the names of the firms concerned.

Secretary (Health) Ashish Singhmar said the proportion of not-of-standard-quality (NSQ) drugs needed to be viewed in the context of production volumes, noting that Himachal accounts for nearly 33 per cent of domestic pharmaceutical supplies and exports substantial quantities of formulations.

He said the state's share of NSQ samples in the national alerts had declined from 82 of 239 samples in July to 64 of 220 in August and 95 of 330 in September. The proportion fell from around 34 per cent in July to 28.8 per cent in September, he added.

# Triund trek to get water supply, toilets, rain shelters

NARESH THAKUR
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DHARAMSALA, OCTOBER 28

The Forest Department is planning to upgrade basic amenities along the popular Triund trekking route with a Rs 34-lakh project to provide piped water, bio-digester toilets and rain shelters, while stepping up efforts to curb littering in the ecologically fragile Dhauladhar range.

Under the proposed project, water will be piped from Laka, located around 4-5 km further up in the Dhauladhar range, to Triund top. The department will also install six bio-digester toilet units — three midway along the trail and three at the top. Gazebos or rain shelters are planned at key points to protect trekkers from sudden showers and adverse weather.

The move comes amid rising tourist footfall at Triund, which attracted around 77,000 trekkers during the 2025-26 financial year. Between April and July this year, the destination saw around 33,000 domestic tourists and 600 foreign nationals.

The growing numbers have added to the challenge of managing plastic waste and other litter along the trail. The department has already installed dustbins at several points and is working to strengthen waste-disposal practices.

In August, it introduced a waste-return system under which trekkers are issued reusable or recyclable garbage bags at the forest department's check-post at Galu. Visitors must carry back the waste generated during their trek and return the issued bag along with the deposit receipt. A refundable security deposit of Rs 500 is collected from each trekker and returned after the bag and receipt are submitted to officials at the check-post on the return journey.

Divisional Forest Officer Amit Sharma said the department's focus was to improve facilities without compromising the mountain ecosystem.

"Our focus is on developing basic amenities for trekkers while ensuring that tourism does not damage the fragile mountain environment. We want to make high-footfall trails under the Dharamsala Forest Circle cleaner and more sustainable, setting an example for other Himalayan regions," he said.

Triund is one of several trekking destinations under the Dharamsala Forest Circle. Other popular routes include Kareri, Himani Chamunda, Kunjar Mahadev and Palachak. The region also has high-altitude mountain pass treks such as Baleni, Minkiani, Bhimgasutri, Inderhara, Talang, Toral and Jalsu.

The proposed facilities, coupled with stricter waste-management measures, are aimed at making trekking safer and more convenient while reducing the environmental footprint of tourism in the Dhauladhar hills.

₹34-lakh project to provide piped water from Laka, six bio-digester toilets and gazebos