

## HC directs Punjab Kesari to NGT in hotel pollution case, extends status quo by a week

Upholds PPCB action: 'board entitled to act under its emergency powers'

Manraj Grewal Sharma  
Chandigarh, January 23

THE PUNJAB and Haryana High Court on Friday directed the The Hind Samachar Limited — owners of the *Punjab Kesari* newspaper — to approach the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in a case challenging punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) action against their luxury hotel, Park Plaza, in Jalandhar. The court, however, extended the status quo in respect of the hotel for one week to allow the petitioners to seek further legal remedies.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sanjiv Berry passed the directions while disposing of a writ petition filed by The Hind Samachar Limited and associated petitioners against emergency closure and electricity disconnection orders issued by the PPCB against the hotel in Jalandhar's Civil Lines area.

Accepting preliminary objections raised by the Punjab government and the PPCB, the Bench held that the petition was not maintainable and that the petitioners had an effective statutory remedy before the NGT under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

The petitioners had sought to quash the power disconnection order dated January 14, 2026, a notice issued a day earlier directing electricity cut-off, and a direction to restore government advertisements to Hind Samachar Limited as they stood prior to November 2, 2025. The court, however, confined its examination to the pollution-related action.

According to the board, an inspection conducted on January 13 found several violations at the 72-room hotel, which has a banquet hall, two restaurants and a swimming pool. The court noted the finding that the hotel's sewage treatment plant "was not in operation during visit and untreated waste water was being by-passed into municipal corporation sewer" with a "permanent provision of by-pass". The effluent treatment plant for laundry waste was also found to be non-functional, with untreated effluent being discharged into the municipal sewer.

The inspection report further recorded that the hotel

did not have authorisation under the Hazardous Waste Management Rules, had inadequate stack heights for diesel generator sets, lacked proper hazardous waste storage, had a non-operational mechanical composter for wet waste, and maintained no records relating to water use, treatment plant operations or municipal approval for discharge of wastewater into the sewer. Effluent samples were collected and sent for laboratory testing.

Upholding the board's action, the Bench said the pollution control board was entitled to act under its emergency powers. The court observed, "Where the Board is of the opinion that in view of the likelihood of a grave injury to the environment it is not expedient to provide an opportunity to file objections against the direction, it may for reasons to be recorded in writing, issue direction without providing such opportunity."

Rejecting the argument that the petitioners were denied natural justice, the court said, "This argument is heard to be rejected on the ground that if opportunity was given in an emergency situation, then the very purpose of vesting the Board with emergent powers would stand defeated." The Bench held that sufficient reasons had been recorded in the Board's internal communication dated January 13, 2026, and that the law did not require prior communication of those reasons to the affected party.

The court also distinguished earlier judgments relied upon by the petitioners, including a 2019 Supreme Court ruling in the Sterlite Industries case, noting that the present matter "exclusively falls within the four corners of the Water Act".

Before concluding, the Bench took note of an interim order passed by the Supreme Court on January 20, 2026, in a connected matter, which allowed uninterrupted functioning of the Punjab Kesari printing press while directing status quo in respect of other commercial establishments, including the hotel.

In view of this, the High Court extended the status quo for the hotel and other commercial establishments for one week, till January 30, 2026.

THUNDERSTORM, HAIL & LIGHTNING: IMD ISSUES RED ALERT IN PUNJAB, HARYANA

## Punjab goes from rain deficit to surplus in 24 hrs, courtesy 13 mm precipitation

Overnight rain transforms seasonal rainfall scenario in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh, officials say

Anju Agnihotri Chaba  
Jalandhar, January 23

THURSDAY NIGHT'S widespread rainfall has moved Punjab into the rain surplus category with Haryana and Chandigarh recording a remarkable jump in cumulative rainfall, thus significantly altering the seasonal rainfall outlook across the regions.

The Meteorological Department has issued a red alert for thunderstorms, hail and lightning in several parts of Punjab, including Fatehgarh Sahib, Patiala, Rajpura and Bassi Pathana. The department has also issued an orange alert for Anandpur Sahib, Rupnagar and Samana.

For Chandigarh and several parts of Haryana, the Met department has placed a red alert. While Kalka, Panchkula, Naraingarh, Barara, Shahbad, Nilotkheri, Indri, Kaithal, Karnal and surrounding regions are placed under an orange alert for Friday.

According to cumulative rainfall data, Punjab recorded 14.5 mm of rainfall including 13 mm in just the past less than 24 hours. The rainfall recorded is against a normal of 12.3 mm required in January month till date, registering a seasonal surplus of +18 percent. This marks a dramatic turnaround from the previous day, when the state was facing a large rainfall deficit.

The impact was most pronounced in several districts where heavy rainfall was reported. Gurdaspur recorded 43.3 mm against a normal of 20.7 mm (+109 per cent), Pathankot received 33.3 mm, Jalandhar saw 32.6 mm (+83 per cent), Sangrur registered 21.5 mm (+168 per cent), Mansa received 14.5 mm against a normal of 5.1 mm (+184 per cent) and Barnala recorded 16.8 mm with a massive +150 per cent departure.

Other districts such as Amritsar (19.8 mm), Ludhiana (16.2 mm) and Tarn Taran (15.8 mm)



Commuters wait for bus amid rain at Ferozepur Road, in Ludhiana on Friday. GURMEET SINGH

also reported substantial rainfall. However, a few districts including Moga (-100 per cent), Fazilka (-85 per cent), Ferozepur (-81 per cent) and Muktsar (-63 per cent) still remain highly deficient.

**Haryana: Sharp improvement, though still deficient**

In Haryana, the overnight rain caused a huge jump in cumulative rainfall, even though the state as a whole remains deficient. Cumulative rainfall now stands at 6.2 mm

against a normal of 9.3 mm, translating to a -33 per cent departure, a significant improvement from the extremely deficient conditions prevailing earlier.

The city recorded one of the highest single-day contributions, reflecting the intensity of the rain spell. Meteorologists note that the event underscores how a single day of widespread rain can dramatically reshape seasonal statistics, especially during otherwise dry periods. While Punjab has emerged into the surplus category, Haryana and Chandigarh have seen substantial recovery, though more rainfall will be needed to erase deficits in several districts.

According to the advisory, moderate thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and hail, with wind speeds of 40-60 kmph, are very likely over parts of Patiala, Samana, Nabha, Rajpura, Dera Bassi, Fatehgarh Sahib, Amloh, Mohali, Khanna, Kharar, Khaman and Chamkaur Sahib.

Moderate thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds is expected over Sunam, Sangrur, Dhuri, Malerkotla, Payal, Ludhiana (East), Samrala, Rupnagar, Balachaur, Nawanshahr, Anandpur Sahib, Garhshankar Nangal and Chandigarh.

Additionally, light thunderstorms with lightning and winds of 30-40 kmph may occur over parts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Pathankot, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Batala, Ajnala, Mukerian and surrounding areas.

The Met body has issued a thunderstorm warning valid till 6.25 pm on Friday, cautioning residents across several districts of Punjab and Chandigarh to stay updated, remain cautious and avoid open areas during lightning activity.

## HP: Season's first snow brings cheer — and discomfort

Saurabh Parashar  
Shimla, January 23

HIMACHAL PRADESH on Friday received its first snowfall this winter, ending a nearly three-month long dry spell, bringing much-needed relief to farmers and apple orchardists while disrupting normal life, particularly in the state capital Shimla and tourist destination of Manali.

Shimla received heavy snowfall, while moderate to heavy snowfall and rain was reported from higher reaches of Kullu, Lahaul-Spiti, Chamba, Kinnaur and parts of Sirmaur district. Farmers welcomed the precipitation, saying it would improve soil moisture and benefit horticultural crops.

According to the Meteorological Centre, snowfall activity higher reaches was likely to continue for the next couple of days.

Senior Scientist and Head Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) at Rohru, Dr Usha Sharma, said the snowfall was much needed. "This year's dry spell was longer



People walk on a snow-covered road at the Ridge, and (right) workers fix a transformer, in Shimla on Friday. PTI, EXPRESS

than that of 2024. Last year, there was snowfall in December. The snow will benefit all the crops," she told the Indian Express.

Padma Shri awardee Harsimran Sharma of Hamirpur, popularly known as apple man of Himachal, said, "Wheat is the

main crop in the semi-hilly and lower hill districts including Hamirpur, Bilaspur, Una and Kangra. In the absence of rains since mid-September, the wheat crop was at the verge of drying. Heavy rain was much needed in our region where farming is dependent on natural

resources. Moreover, the rain is also beneficial for mangoes and litchi. These are the main fruits grown in our area".

The weather office issued an alert for snowstorms in parts of eight districts — Chamba, Kangra, Kinnaur, Kullu, Lahaul-Spiti, Mandi, Shimla and Sir-

maur — warning of spells of moderate snowfall, isolated heavy snowfall and blizzard-like conditions. It also forecast moderate rain accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds reaching speeds of 40-50 kmph at isolated places in Una, Bilaspur and Hamirpur districts.

As per the weather outlook, light to moderate rain and snowfall is likely at most places across the state on January 23 and 27, with isolated spells of heavy precipitation. On January 24 and 25, light rain or snowfall is expected at isolated places in higher hills. Light to moderate rain and snowfall may occur at a few places on January 26 and 28, while weather conditions are expected to remain mostly dry on January 29. A yellow alert for cold wave conditions has also been issued for January 24 and 25 at isolated locations.

The sudden change in weather is expected to bring a sharp drop in temperatures. The Meteorological Centre has predicted a fall of 3-5 degrees Celsius in minimum temperatures over the next 48 hours, followed by a rise of 2-5 degrees.

Over 2 lakh students apply for 20,000 seats in meritorious govt schools: Bains

Chandigarh: Punjab Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains on Friday said the state government's 'Sikhiya Kranti' (education revolution) initiatives are yielding positive results, citing a high volume of admission applications for Schools of Eminence and Residential Schools for meritorious students.

"Over two lakh students have registered for admissions to Classes 9 and 11, competing for nearly 20,000 available seats. The response shows growing confidence among parents and students in government school system," Bains said in a statement.

According to the minister, Punjab at present has 118

Schools of Eminence and 10 Residential Schools for Class 11 admissions." So far, 93,300 students have registered for Class 9 admissions, out of which 74,855 applications have been submitted.

Similarly, for Class 11, 1,10,716 students have registered and 92,624 applications have been submitted. 36,537 students across both grades are yet to complete their final submissions, he said. Bains urged applicants to finish the process before January 25, 2026.

The entrance examination will be conducted on March 1, 2026. Details regarding admit cards and examination centres will be released through official channels later. PTI

**Govt. of Maharashtra Directorate of Industries**  
Jt. Director of Industries & Chairman, Purchase Committee, O/o JOINT DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIES, KONKAN DIVISION, MULUND CHECK NAKA, THANE (W) 400604

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**  
(National Competitive Bidding through E-Tendering mode only)

ONLINE bids are invited from Manufacturers, Authorized Distributors/ Authorized Dealers, Contractors, Registered firms from India & Abroad for Supply/ Works of following Machinery/ Equipments/ Instruments/ Stores for Proposed Common Facility Center in respect of Readymade Garment Cluster, Thane, SPV i.e. M/s Griyastha Textiles Association, Bhiwandi, Dist. Thane (MS), India.

Sr. No	Tender No.	Name of Machineries/ Equipments/ Work	Date of Publishing Tender & Time	Last Date & Time of Bid Submission
1	JDI/KONKAN/MSE CDP/RG/2025-26/02	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF SPECIALIZED STITCHING FACILITY	23.01.2026 at 13.30 hrs	13.02.2026 at 17.00 hrs
2	JDI/KONKAN/MSE CDP/RG/2025-26/03	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF DIGITAL CUTTING FACILITY ALONGWITH PRINTING AND EMBROIDERY MACHINES	23.01.2026 at 13.30 hrs	13.02.2026 at 17.00 hrs
3	JDI/KONKAN/MSE CDP/RG/2025-26/04	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF ROOFTOP SOLAR SYSTEM	23.01.2026 at 13.30 hrs	06.02.2026 at 17.00 hrs
4	JDI/KONKAN/MSE CDP/RG/2025-26/05	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEM	23.01.2026 at 13.30 hrs	06.02.2026 at 17.00 hrs
5	JDI/KONKAN/MSE CDP/RG/2025-26/06	SUPPLY OF OFFICE EQUIPMENTS WITH FURNITURE AND FIXTURES	23.01.2026 at 13.30 hrs	06.02.2026 at 17.00 hrs

For further Details Please Visit Website: [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in) (Technical Support 24/7, Toll Free help desk no. 0120-4001002, 0120-6877787)

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**DATE OF E-AUCTION 18.02.2026 (SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION ONLY)**

**DATE OF E-AUCTION 20.02.2026 (SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION ONLY)**

**DATE OF E-AUCTION 06.03.2026 (SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION ONLY)**

**STATUTORY SALE NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC UNDER RULE 8(6)/9(1) READ WITH RULE 6 & 9 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002 OF SARFAESI ACT PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF MOBILE/IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES**

1. The Sale will be done through e-auction platform provided at the Website "<https://baanknet.com/>"

2. EMD & KYC will be done online through portal "<https://baanknet.com/>"

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic/Physical/Constructive Possession of which has been taken by the authorized Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is Basis" and "As is what is Basis" and "Whatever there is Basis", on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower(s) and guarantor(s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

Description of the Secured Assets Mortgaged	Demand Notice Date	Reserve Price	Date/Time of E-Auction	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
	24.11.2025	Rs. 6,97,000/-	18.02.2026 Time: From 11 AM to 4 PM	NOT KNOWN
	SYMBOLIC	Rs. 50,000/-		
	28.05.2021	Rs. 17,90,000/-	18.02.2026 Time: From 11 AM to 4 PM	
	03.08.2022	Rs. 1,79,000/-		
	SYMBOLIC	Rs. 20,000/-		
	23.03.2022	Rs. 27,05,000/-	20.02.2026 Time: From 11 AM to 4 PM	Charge of Phagwara Co-operative Agriculture Bank is for Rs. 5 lacs as per jamabandi
	01.06.2022	Rs. 2,70,000/-		
	SYMBOLIC	Rs. 20,000/-		
	17.11.2023	Rs. 6,13,000/-	06.03.2026 Time: From 11 AM to 4 PM	
	18.12.2025	Rs. 6,13,000/-		
	SYMBOLIC	Rs. 10,000/-		

**STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002**

All that part and parcel of Equitable mortgage of Housing property measuring 19 Marlas situated at Kharachian, Mohalla, Near Sangam Palace, Amritsar Road Kapurthala, Registered with Sub Registrar, Kapurthala vide sale deed No. 2856 dated 07-02-1986 in the name of Sh. 38,15,013.74 + intt w.e.f. NPA classification & other Misc Charges

Sh. Roshan Lal s/o Sohan Lal, comprising in