

{ HARYANA ASSEMBLY BUDGET SESSION }

Congress alleges ₹5,000-crore paddy procurement ‘scandal’

Congress MLAs say cheaper paddy was brought in from other states and shown as locally procured produce

HT Correspondent
letterschd@hindustantimes.com

CHANDIGARH : The eyebrow raising record paddy procurement rocked the Haryana Assembly on Friday with the Opposition accusing the government of presiding over a multi-crore paddy procurement scandal, triggering sharp exchanges in the House. The principal opposition party, the Congress, alleged that the irregularities began from the

Allegations misleading, says Saini

Chief minister Nayab Singh Saini admitted that there were certain shortcomings, but strict action was being taken against all those responsible for the irregularities. “We took action as soon as we found the shortcomings and we are further strengthening the procurement system,” Saini said, dismissing the Opposition’s allegation of a ₹5,000 crore scam in paddy procurement as factually

incorrect and misleading. He said so far 12 FIRs had been registered and of the total 75 government officials chargesheeted, and 28 officials have been suspended. He said that ₹6.37 crore fine was also recovered from the rice millers. Saini said that to plug the loopholes, ahead of 2026-27 paddy procurement season, e-procurement portal is being upgraded. He said from the upcoming rabi and kharif

marketing seasons 2026–27, range of technology-driven measures will be introduced, including geo-tagged gate passes, automatic number plate recognition for vehicles, geo-fencing of mandis, warehouses and rice mills, and installation of CCTV. The CM said that provisions of biometric verification and physical inspections through mobile application will be implemented for farmers.

Batra, Geeta Bhukkal, Shelly Chaudhary, and Aditya Surjewala, besides INLD MLAs Aditya Devi Lal and Arjun Chautala.

“The strongest proof of this scam is that in a year when the crops were damaged and yield declined, the paddy procurement figures of the government are record breaking...Where has this paddy come from? Obviously, from other states...Outside paddy was sold at MSP and our own farmers were left standing outside the mandis,” Surjewala said in his separate calling attention notice. In their joint notice, Congress MLAs demanded CBI probe and alleged that fake gate passes were generated at grain markets and that cheaper paddy was brought in from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and shown as locally procured produce using forged documentation.

{ CM'S REPLY ON GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS }

Introduced transparency to stop ‘loot’ prevailed during Cong govt: Saini

HT Correspondent
letterschd@hindustantimes.com

CHANDIGARH : The Haryana government has detected discrepancies in about 1.30 lakh old age pension cases. These discrepancies pertaining to age, income and other criteria are being verified to ensure that only eligible beneficiaries receive the social security pension. However, the old age pension cases under scrutiny have not been discontinued. This was stated by Haryana chief minister, Nayab Singh Saini in the state assembly on Friday while replying to the discussion on governor’s address.

Taking a dig at the Opposition, the CM said, “Can’t you see that this government has introduced a transparent system and stopped the loot that prevailed during Congress rule.”

Saini said that during the Congress rule, more than 50,000 ineligible persons were granted social security pensions. In 2011, an old-age pension scam came to light in which pensions were handed over to individuals who were either ineligible or had passed away,” the CM said.

He said at that time the state government had decided to transfer pensions directly into bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

“While about 15.98 lakh persons were receiving social security pensions across 16 districts then, however, when the beneficiaries were asked to open bank accounts, only about 11.44 lakh accounts were opened, indicating that nearly five lakh individuals were fake beneficiaries,” the CM said. “Had the government examined all the 21 districts, the number of fake beneficiaries would have been even higher,” he added.



Under Congress rule, over 50,000 ineligible people received social security pensions. This included a 2011 scam where payments were issued to ineligible individuals and even the deceased.

NAYAB SINGH SAINI, Haryana chief minister

‘Strict action against ‘donkey route’ agents’

The CM said that the state government has taken several steps to enhance skills and generate employment opportunities for youth. However, if any youngster wants to go abroad, the government has established a foreign cooperation department to assist them.

“We are taking strict action against agents who send youth abroad through the illegal ‘donkey route.’

To curb fraud in the name of sending people abroad and to regulate travel agents, a law has already been enacted. The government is sending youth abroad through legal channels via Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam (HKRN), Saini said.

He said under Panchjanya-2026 programme held on January 3, offer letters were issued to 210 youth for employment in Dubai. “So far, 390 youth have been sent to Israel in two phases and are getting a monthly salary of more than ₹3.38 lakh.

‘Empowering women through financial assistance’

The CM told the assembly that till January 31, 2026, over 10.5 lakh women had applied for Deendayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana through the mobile application, of which, 9,22,452 women were

found eligible to receive monthly financial assistance of ₹2100. He said that the fourth instalment (₹193 crore) of the scheme was deposited on February 10 directly into the accounts of the eligible women beneficiary, bringing the total disbursement under the scheme to ₹634 crore across four instalments.

Saini informed the House that ₹116.15 crore compensation for crop damage due to floods had been released to 53,821 farmers. Out of this amount, ₹35.29 crore was released for bajra, ₹27.43 crore for cotton, ₹22.91 crore for paddy and ₹14.10 crore for guar.

Responding to claims that many farmers did not receive compensation, the CM said investigation found that duplicate photographs of certain land parcels had been uploaded on the portal by patwaris.

Due to this technical discrepancy, compensation amounting to ₹370.52 crore for 1,50,583 farmers could not be approved. He said the matter is under government’s consideration.

Saini refuted allegations that farmers were being cheated by reducing the weight of urea bags.

The CM clarified that the traditional neem-coated urea, containing 46% nitrogen, continues to be available in 45-kg bags at the existing price of ₹266.50 per bag, inclusive of GST.

24-yr-old Yamunanagar man dies in Canada road accident

HT Correspondent
letterschd@hindustantimes.com

KARNAL : A 24-year-old man from Yamunanagar died in a road accident in Canada’s Toronto, family members said on Friday. The deceased Udam Preet Singh, a native of Chhota Model Town, Yamunanagar had gone to Canada on a study visa in 2021.

The family of the deceased said he was currently living in Brampton, pursuing his studies and working part-time to support his family.



Victim Udam Preet Singh

His father Gurvinder Singh runs a photography business in the city and has sold his land, spending lakhs of rupees to ensure his son’s bright future.

According to reports, Udam was travelling to Toronto by car with a friend after receiving a two-day leave from work on Thursday when their car collided head-on with a speeding truck. Udam died at the spot, while his friend was seriously injured.

The family in India received news of the accident late on Thursday. Udam had recently returned to Canada after spending a few weeks in India to celebrate his parents’ silver jubilee anniversary in December 2025.

PSEIC rakes in ₹163cr from auction of 77 units

HT Correspondent
letterschd@hindustantimes.com

CHANDIGARH : As many as 77 industrial plots located in various focal points across Punjab were allotted in the latest e-auction conducted by the Punjab Small Industries and Export Corporation (PSIEC). Punjab industries and commerce minister Sanjeev Arora on Friday said the cumulative base value of these plots was approximately ₹72.50 crore, whereas the final bids received amounted to an impressive ₹163.50 crore, reflecting more than double apprecia-

RESPONSE DEMONSTRATED INVESTOR CONFIDENCE, SAYS MINISTER ARORA

tion over the reserve price. He said the response demonstrated the robust demand for industrial land and renewed investor confidence. The significant price realisation underscored the strategic location, infrastructure readiness and immense development potential of the industrial focal points, he added in a statement.

HC order barring sale of PSPCL properties to continue till March 13

HT Correspondent
letterschd@hindustantimes.com

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab and Haryana high court on Friday declined Punjab’s request to vacate the stay imposed by the court on delineating properties of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) on February 20.

The stay will continue till March 13, the next date of hearing. It was imposed while acting on a public interest litigation (PIL) alleging that the PSPCL had been pushed into a severe financial crisis due to unpaid electric-

ity dues from state government departments to the tune of ₹2,500 crore, and that it is selling its valuable public assets to tide over the crisis.

During the hearing on Friday, state’s advocate general MS Bedi started his arguments questioning maintainability of the petition and said that it has been filed merely on the basis of news reports.

He further said that PSPCL is in profit of ₹6,000 crore and the government is not selling the properties and in fact, being given to Punjab Urban Development Authority for develop-



ment.” ... the decision to alienate properties of the PSPCL, falls within exclusive domain of public policy, since the same is based on the cabinet approval of ‘Optimum Use of Vacant Government Land Scheme’ (OUGVL) passed way back in the Year 1997,” the AG had submitted adding that in

view of this the stay should be vacated as in policy matters courts’ refrain from interference in PILs. Appearing for the petitioner, senior advocate Baltej Singh Sidhu had questioned the submissions arguing that a reply on behalf of the PSPCL has been filed by a junior level officer and not by the chairman or any other senior functionary of the PSPCL. The state government is yet to respond to the plea. They should file the reply first, he had submitted opposing the demand.

Despite repeated requests from the state’s AG, the court did not yield and at one of point of

time observed that “something appears fishy (here)”

“...keeping the question of maintainability open, this court is of the prima facie view that if the contention of learned counsel for the petitioner is correct, that respondent No. 5/PSPCL is under a huge burden of Rs. 2582/- crore and the State is proceeding to alienate the properties of respondent No. 5, then the issue definitely falls, prima facie, within four corners of public interest,” the bench of chief justice Sheel Nagu and justice Sanjiv Berry observed while fixing the matter for hearing on March

13 and asking the state to file a para-wise reply of the petition.

The PIL filed in January had initially alleged that the government is yet to pay ₹2,582.24 crore in electricity dues, apart from power subsidy arrears exceeding ₹10,000 crore and further it was selling its properties. However, on February 20, an application was filed challenging a move to delineate 50 acres of land in Patiala, while the issue was under consideration before the court. It was on this application, HC had restrained Punjab and PSPCL from delineating from PSPCL properties.

HT

Fire breaks out in scrap warehouse in Bhiwani
BHIWANI: A fire broke out in a scrap warehouse near the Bawdi Gate area on Friday. Upon receiving the information, five fire tenders rushed to the spot to douse the fire, officials said. Firefighter Sanjay Sharma said, “We received information about the fire incident around 10 am. A total of five fire tender vehicles rushed to the spot to control the fire.”

ANI

6-yr-old boy attacked by stray dogs in Sangrur
SANGRUR: A six-year-old boy was attacked and bitten by a pack of stray dogs while playing outside his house in Sangrur’s Sunder Basti on Friday. The child, Amrit Singh, was immediately rushed to the civil hospital. Karamdeep Singh Kahal, SMO, said the child suffered category 3 dog bites, with multiple lacerated wounds on both thighs, buttocks, left shoulder and left ear.

HTC

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਐਂਡ ਸਿੰਧ ਬੈਂਕ (ਭਾਰਤ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦਾ ਉਪਕਰਮ)				ਪੰਜਾਬ ਐਂਡ ਸਿੰਧ ਬੈਂਕ (A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)						
ZONAL OFFICE : HOSHIARPUR		Where Service is a way of life				ZONAL OFFICE : HOSHIARPUR				
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES										
DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION ON 30.03.2026 BETWEEN 11:00 AM TO 04:00 PM (WITH 10 MINUTES UNLIMITED AUTO EXTENSIONS)										
EMD SHALL BE DEPOSITED AND LINKED/MAPPED WITH THE PROPERTY ID BEFORE THE EXPIRY OF AUCTION TIME PRIOR TO PLACING THE BID										
Sale of immovable assets charged to the Bank under the Securitization And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Punjab & Sind Bank had taken possession of the following property pursuant to the notice issued under section 13(2) on dates mentioned against each account, read along with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 in the following loan account with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" "AND" "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS", "WHAT EVER THERE IS BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues and interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) of said Act propose to realize the Bank's dues by the sale of the said properties. The sale will be done by the undersigned through E Auction platform provided at the web portal website https://baanknet.com .										
DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY			FOR ANY ENQUIRY CALL BRANCH MANAGER		DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY					
SR. NO.	NAME OF ACCOUNT AND BANK BRANCH	DEMAND NOTICE DATE / TOTAL RECOVERABLE AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURED ASSET	STATUS OF POSSESSION (PHYSICAL / SYMBOLIC)	RESERVE PRICE(Rs.) EMD (Rs.) BID INCREMENT AMOUNT (Rs.)	LAST DATE & TIME OF EMD / DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION	AUTHORIZED OFFICER NAME, CONTACT NO. & EMAIL ID	QR Code for Property Image	QR Code for Location	QR Code for Service Provider
1.	ROPAR 1. M/s Dsl Power (p) Ltd C-190, Phase VI Focal Point, Ludhiana, Pb-141010 Punjab Through Its Director Sh. Narinder Singh (Borrower), 2. Sh. Narinder Singh S/o Sh. Atma Singh R/o 421.422, Phase I Focal Point, Ludhiana, Pb-141010 (Director & Guarantor), 3. Sh. Atma Singh S/o Sh. Daya Singh R/o 421.422, Phase I Focal Point, Ludhiana, Pb-141010 (Director & Guarantor) 4. Smt. Parminder Kaur W/o Sh. Narinder Singh R/o 421.422, Phase I Focal Point, Ludhiana, Pb-141010 (Director & Guarantor),	Rs. 20,66,13,645.66 as on 30.09.2025 plus future interest & Charges thereon.	1. All part and parcel of property H. No. 421 measuring 500 sq. yard Situated phase-1 urban estate dhandari kalan, Ludhiana each as per sale deed vasika no. 14383 dated 18-05-1990 standing in the name Atma singh s/o Daya Singh.	PHYSICAL	1,55,70,000/- + any dues with Pdsb 15,57,000/- 1,56,00,000/-	29.03.2026, III 4:00 p.m. / 30.03.2026 from 11:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M	SH. SANJAY KUMAR SHARMA, CHIEF MANAGER, MOB 9827748889 E-MAIL – sanjay.sharma@psb.co.in			
			2. All part and parcel of property H. No. 422 measuring 500 sq. yard situated phase-1 urban estate dhandari kalan, Ludhiana each as per sale deed vasika no. 17513 dated 25-05-1990 standing in the name of Narinder singh s/o Atma singh.	PHYSICAL	1,36,80,000/- + any dues with Pdsb 13,68,000/- 1,37,00,000/-	29.03.2026, III 4:00 p.m. / 30.03.2026 from 11:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M	SH. SANJAY KUMAR SHARMA, CHIEF MANAGER, MOB 9827748889 E-MAIL – sanjay.sharma@psb.co.in			
			3. P&M scrap at Mini/Micro Hydel Power generation project of 300 KW capacity built in a plot of 1.362 hectares land on leasehold basis on Kotla Branch canal at RD 267600 to RD 269192 in village Ralla on the right & left Bank, Tehsil & Distt. Mansa. Details of P&M along with quantity are as follows: 1. Steup Power Transformer – 1. 2. Power distribution Line 11KV – Lot 3. Turbine Housing – 1. 4. Old Gear box – 1. 5. Connecting Shaft – 1. 6. Lubrication unit (Motor and Some Parts missing). 7. EOT Crane – 1. 8. Misc scrap items not covered above – Lot.	PHYSICAL	6,47,000/- 64,700/- 6,470/-	29.03.2026, III 4:00 p.m. / 30.03.2026 from 11:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M	SH. SANJAY KUMAR SHARMA, CHIEF MANAGER, MOB 9827748889 E-MAIL – sanjay.sharma@psb.co.in			
2.	KATHGARH M/s JGV Ji Traders (prop. Firm), Borrower Prop. Sh. Harman Bhatia S/o Sh. Husan Lal Vill. Kathgarh, Kathgarh Morh, Tehsil - Balachaur, Punjab - 144521 2. Smt. Devi W/o Sh. Husan Lal (guarantor) Village Raju Majra, Sbs Nagar Punjab - 144521 3. Sh. Kuldeep Kumar S/o Sh. Satpal (Guarantor) Village Raju Majra, Sbs Nagar, Punjab - 144521.	Rs. 11,61,833.50 as on 31.10.2025 plus future interest & Charges thereon.	Property 1. Equitable Mortgage of Property measuring 5M-2S out of Khata No. 33/33 Khasra No. 251/1-3, 413/1-0, 609/0-2 as per jamabandi for the year 2016-17 situated in the village Raju Majra, HB No, 383 Tehsil Balachaur, Distt. Nawanshahr.	SYMBOLIC	6,50,000.00 65,000.00 6,500/-	29.03.2026, III 4:00 p.m. / 30.03.2026 from 11:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M	SH. ASHOK KUMAR, CHIEF MANAGER, MOB 9872815941 E-MAIL – m0029@psb.co.in			
			Property 2. Equitable Mortgage of Property measuring 6M-0S out of Khata No. 33/33 Khasra No. 251/1-3, 413/1-0, 609/0-2 as per jamabandi for the year 2016-17 situated in the village Raju Majra, HB No, 383 Tehsil Balachaur, Distt. Nawanshahr.	SYMBOLIC	13,25,000.00 1,32,500.00 13,250/-	29.03.2026, III 4:00 p.m. / 30.03.2026 from 11:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M	SH. ASHOK KUMAR, CHIEF MANAGER, MOB 9872815941 E-MAIL – m0029@psb.co.in			
3.	GUNACHAUR 1. Sh. Gurbax Ram S/o Sh. Jagtar Ram (Borrower), V.P.O. Gunachaur, SBS 144511. 2. Sh. Harjinder Kumar S/o Sh. Laxman Dass (Guarantor), V.P.O. Gunachaur, SBS Nagar – 144511.	Rs. 14,88,098.57 as on 31.12.2025 plus future interest and other charges	TRUCK TATA LPT 710/14ft DCR35CBC 100 B56M5 ST CHASSIS	PHYSICAL	11,00,000/- 1,10,000/- 11,000/-	29.03.2026, III 4:00 p.m. / 30.03.2026 from 11:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M	SH. ASHOK KUMAR, CHIEF MANAGER, MOB 9872815941 E-MAIL – m0029@psb.co.in			
Terms & Conditions : The e-auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS" & "AS IS WHAT IS" "WHATEVER THERE IS" and "WITHOUT ANY RECOURSE" BASIS. (1) To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on any property. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent enquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of the property put on auction and claims/ rights/ dues/ effecting the property prior to submitting their bid. The e-auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the Bank. The property/ies is/are being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the Bank. The Authorised Officer/Secured creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any 3rd parties claim/rights/dues. (2) It shall be the responsibility or the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the assets and specifications before submitting their bid. The inspection of property put on auction will be permitted to the interested bidders on the date mentioned above against each account. 3. The interested bidders shall submit their EMD through web portal https://baanknet.com (the user ID and Password can be obtained free of cost by registering name with https://baanknet.com through login ID & Password. (4) After registration by bidders in the web portal, the intending bidder/purchaser is required to get the copies of the following documents uploaded in the web portal before the last date and time of submission of the bid documents. viz (1) copy of NEFT/RTGS challan, (2) Copy of PAN Card (3) Copy of Residency proof identification (KYC) viz. self attested copy of Voter ID Card/Driving License/Passport/Ration Card etc., without which the bid is liable to be rejected. Uploading of scanned copy of annexures (ii) and (iii) Mentioned in the tender Notice after duly filling up the signing. 5. The interested bidders who require assistance in creating login ID and password, uploading data submittung bid documents, training/ demonstration on online inter-se bidding etc. may contact support baanknet@psballiance.com Contact No.+91 82912 20220. (6) Only the buyers holding valid ID/Password and confirmation payment of EMD through NEFT/RTGS shall be for participating in the e-auction process. For further details please visit https://www.bankauctions.com & banks website https://www.psbindia.com . & may also be contacted to Respective Branches. 6. EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited in E-Wallet of (M/s.PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd.)(Contact No.70466 1234563549 10172/8291220220/989221 9848/8 160250501, Email: support.baanknet@psballiance.com portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan. i) After payment of the EMD amount, the intending bidders should submit a copy of the following documents/ details at Punjab & Sind Bank Zonal Office Hoshiarpur mentioned above by hand or by email. ii) Photocopies of PAN Card, ID Proof and Address proof. However, successful bidder would have to produce these documents in original to the Bank at the time of making payment of balance amount of 25% of bid amount. iii) Bidder Name, Contact No. Address, Email ID. iv) Bidder s/A/c. details for online refund of EMD. 7. Any encumbrances over the property/ies is not known to the Bank/Secured Creditor. Note : The measurement of above mentioned properties, however, be verified by the bidders at site and also from record of the Revenue Authorities prior to participating in auction.										
DETAIL OF ACCOUNT IN WHICH REMAINING AMOUNT AFTER EMD IS TO BE DEPOSITED THROUGH RTGS/NEFT A/C NAME NEFT INWARD STP PARKING ACCOUNT, A/c No.80275040070003. IFSC Code : PSIB0008027										
ENCUMBRANCES NIL TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE AUTHORISED OFFICER			STATUTORY 15/30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 6(2), 8(6) & 9(1) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002					ENCUMBRANCES NIL TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE AUTHORISED OFFICER		
The borrower/guarantors are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/ sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.										
Dated : 27.02.2026			PLACE: HOSHIARPUR					AUTHORISED OFFICER		

