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HC dismisses women health workers' plea for pay parity

'No Equal Treatment For Unequals'

Pankul.Sharma
@timesofindia.com

Dehradun: Uttarakhand high court (HC) on Wednesday dismissed petitions seeking a higher pay scale for female health workers and upheld the state's decision to maintain separate pay grades for employees appointed before and after 2013. The court observed that the principle of not treating unequal categories equally is consistent with Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution.

The case has its origins in an earlier judgment of the Allahabad HC, following which certain health workers in the erstwhile state were granted a revised pay scale. Pursuant to that ruling, the govt granted a grade pay of Rs 2,800 as personal pay to the employees covered by the judgment.

> Court observed that the petitioners, having been appointed after 2013, were not parties to the earlier litigation and belonged to a category distinct from the employees who had benefited from the previous judgment

In the present petitions, the petitioners sought the same Rs 2,800 grade pay, citing the principle of "equal pay for equal work". However, the HC rejected their plea. The court observed that the petitioners, having been appointed after 2013, were not parties to the earlier litigation and belonged to a category distinct from the employees who had benefited from the previous judgment.

State counsel argued that pay-scale determination involves several factors, including financial capacity, educational qualifications and the mode of appointment. The court observed that the state's decision not to extend the Rs 2,800 grade pay to all employees, including future appointees, was justified, particularly in view of the potential financial implications of extending the higher pay scale to a large number of employees.

The court also observed that the petitioners had accepted appointments carrying a grade pay of Rs 2,000 and "could not subsequently claim a different pay scale on grounds of parity". It noted that the applicable pay grade for new appointees had been specified in the recruitment rules.

Referring to judicial precedents on pay-scale matters, the court noted that courts generally refrain from interfering in pay-scale determination unless there are compelling reasons indicating significant error or injustice.

What's been done for families hit by mining in Bageshwar, asks HC

State To Submit Relief Measures Taken So Far

Pankul.Sharma
@timesofindia.com

Dehradun: Uttarakhand high court on Wednesday asked state govt to explain what measures it had taken to alleviate the hardship of families affected by alleged illegal soapstone mining in Kanda tehsil and other villages of Bageshwar district, where residents had complained of cracks in houses, damaged farmland and broken water supply lines.

A division bench of Chief Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta and Justice Subhash Upadhyay heard a batch of matters, including a suo motu PIL initiated after villagers wrote to the chief justice about the damage, and petitions concerning 165 mining units in the region. The court directed state govt to file an affidavit within two weeks, detailing relief and rehabilitation measures taken so far, and fixed the next hearing for August.

During the hearing, amicus curiae informed the court that the grievances of villagers whose letters had prompted suo motu cognisance had still not been addressed. The court was told that while proceedings had continued over mining permissions, environmental compliance and operation of mining units, the immediate condition of families living with cracked houses, damaged agricultural fields and disrupted water lines had not received effective administrative attention.

The petitioners had earlier said illegal and mechanised soapstone mining had devastated their land, homes and water sources. They alleged that financially better-off families had moved to Haldwani and other safer places, while poorer residents remained in the affected villages and continued to face risk to homes, livelihoods and drinking water. "Those who had the means have already left. The poor are still living there, and even their remaining sources of livelihood are now being eyed for mining," the villagers had submitted in their plea.

The court asked state govt to place on record the steps taken after complaints were filed with senior officials and after previous orders in the case. "What measures have been taken to alleviate the difficulties faced by the affected families?" the bench asked, while directing the state to file a detailed affidavit.

The case has been before high court since last year, when the court took suo motu cognisance of reports and letters from residents of Kanda area alleging that soapstone mining had caused structural damage in several villages. Earlier proceedings had led to a mining ban, inspection directions and constitution of expert panels involving institutions such as Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Geological Survey of India, G B Pant National Himalayan Environment Institute and other agencies to assess damage and slope stability.

In subsequent hearings, the court had dealt with petitions by mining leaseholders and operators, while also examining whether mining could continue under stricter conditions.

HC seeks PWD reply on debris dumping in Kosi

Pankul.Sharma
@timesofindia.com

Dehradun: Uttarakhand HC has directed the respondents to file their replies within three weeks on a PIL alleging that construction debris is being dumped into the Kosi river and its reservoir in Vimola village of Almora district. The PIL also raised concerns over damage to the village's main road.

A division bench of Chief Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta and Justice Subhash Upadhyay directed PWD and the parties involved in the construction activity to file affidavits. The court also permitted the petitioner to file a rejoinder to the administration's response.

The administration replied that the construction activity in question is "illegal" and that debris generated from it had been dumped into the river and reservoir. It added that a penalty had been imposed in connection with the dumping.

According to the petition, villagers, including residents of Siyalidhar, have been dumping construction debris into the Kosi river, causing damage to the river ecosystem.

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

Regional Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, Rudrapur, 1st Floor, Regional Office, Rudrapur, Near Gaba Chowk, Kashipur Road, Rudrapur -263153

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE/MOVABLE PROPERTIES "APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 9(1)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable/Movable Assets under the Securaisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

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Sl. No:	Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors	Details of Movable/Immovable Property	Reserve Price / EMD / Minimum Bid Increment Amount	Date and Time of Commencement of E-Auction / Status of Possession	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession / Outstanding Amount
1.	**1. M/s Samrat Enterprises,** Through its Proprietor Mrs. Monika Agarwal W/o Mr. Sanjeev Agarwal, Add : Plot no. 8/1, Himalayan Food Park, Mahuakhera, Kashipur, District Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand- 244713. **2. Mrs Monika Agarwal W/o Mr. Sanjeev Agarwal (Proprietor M/s Samrat Enterprises),** Add : Plot no. 8/1, Himalayan Food Park, Mahuakhera, Kashipur, District- Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand- 244713. **3. Mrs. Rajbala Agarwal W/o Mr. Rakesh Agarwal (Guarantor),** Add : Ward No. 11, Mohalla Ojhan, Kashipur, District- Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand - 244713 **4. Mr. Saurabh Agarwal S/o Mr. Rakesh Kumar Agarwal (Guarantor),** Add : Ward No. 11, Mohalla Ojhan, Kashipur, District- Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand- 244713. **5. Mrs. Disha Agarwal W/o Mr. Gaurav Agarwal (Guarantor),** Add : Ward No. 11, Mohalla Ojhan, Kashipur, District- Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand- 244713. **6. Mrs. Deepti Agarwal W/o Mr. Saurabh Agarwal (Guarantor),** Add : Ward No. 11, Mohalla Ojhan, Kashipur, District- Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand- 244713. **7. Mr. Sanjeev Agarwal S/o Mr. Shanker Lal (Guarantor),** Add : H NO. 24 B/2, Adarsh Colony, Civil Lines, Rampur, Uttar Pradesh- 244901. **8. Mr. Mohd. Ali S/o Mr. Mohbbe Ali (Guarantor),** Add : Mohalla Allikhan, Ward No. 10, Kashipur, District- Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand- 244713.	A property i.e, Land & Building situated at Khasra no. 304, 305 and Plot No. 8/1 situated at Mahuakhera Ganj, Kashipur, Udham Singh Nagar belonging to Smt. Monika Agarwal W/o Mr. Sanjeev Agarwal (Lease deed Sr. No. 6348, dated 01.09.2017 has been executed by Himalayan Food Park in favour of Mrs. Monika Agarwal W/o Mr. Sanjeev Agarwal). Admeasuring area 21520 Sqft or 2000 Sq Mtr. Boundaries of properties as per Lease deed are as under : East- Plot of Others, West- Plot of Others, North- 15 mts Wide Road, South- Chak Road.	₹ 2,03,15,000.00 / EMD ₹ 20,31,500.00 / Minimum Bid Increment Amount ₹ 25,000.00	07.07.2026 12:00 PM to 05:00 PM / Status of Possession: Physical	05.01.2024 / 20.05.2024 / ₹ 3,59,39,936.00 (Rupees Three Crore Fifty Nine Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Six Only) + Rs. 14,73,943.15 (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Three And Paise Fifteen Only) (Unrealized Interest) + Unapplied Interest + Legal Charges + Other Charge & Interest w.e.f 26.12.2023

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HC pulls up forest secy, PCCF again over grade pay dues

Pankul.Sharma@timesofindia.com

Dehradun: Uttarakhand high court has issued another contempt notice to state forest secretary RK Sudhanshu and principal conservator of forests (PCCF) RK Mishra for failing to comply with its directive to release a grade pay of Rs 1,500 to daily-wage workers.

A bench of Justice Pankaj Purohit was hearing multiple petitions on Tuesday and noted the state's continued non-compliance with its March 30, 2017 order. The court mandated adherence within a specified timeline, and scheduled the next hearing for Aug 5.

The appellants have questioned disparities in pay scales, demanding wages equal to those of regular employees — a long-standing issue in wage-related litigation. Despite successive appeals, including a special appeal and reviews in the Supreme Court, the state failed to secure relief, leaving the original order intact.

With the apex court dismissing the state's petition on Nov 11, 2025, the ruling gained finality. Citing key Supreme Court rulings, such as the 2006 State of Uttar Pradesh vs Putti Lal case, the court reiterated that temporary employees are entitled to minimum pay scale prescribed for regular employees until their services are fully regularised. The directive was issued on the same day the court served contempt notices to the officials for failing to return personal scientific equipment and logistics assets belonging to wildlife researcher Subir Mario, who had completed his study, received a one-year extension and submitted his final report to the forest department. A copy of the order was released on Wednesday.

> **Appellants questioned disparities in pay scales. Court reiterated that temporary employees are entitled to minimum pay scale prescribed for regular employees until their services are fully regularised**

HC seeks clearing of encroached drainage channel

Dehradun: Uttarakhand HC has directed that an encroached water channel flowing through two villages in Haridwar's Pathri area be reopened until a response is received from the rehabilitation department. A bench of Chief Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta and Justice Subhash Upadhyay on Wed passed the order while hearing a PIL and scheduled the next hearing after four weeks.

The case details indicate the prior existence of a 1,100m long drainage channel that carries water from Shivalik hills into the Ganga. Petitioner Gurdeep Singh submitted that as encroachers have filled up the drainage channel for agricultural purposes, during monsoon, chances of homes and fields getting inundated are higher. **Pankul Sharma**

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