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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

Date of Decision: 17th November, 2026
Uploaded on: 19th November, 2026

\# **CNR No. DLHC010532102026**

\+ **W.P.(C) 16323/2026 & CM APPL. 76585/2026**

KULDEEPSINGH NAGUSINGH THAKUR .....Petitioner

Through: Mr. Sudhanshu Choudhari, Sr. Adv. with Mr. Vatsalya Vigya, Ms. Pranjal Chapalgaonkar, Mr. Yash Singhania & Ms Gautami Yadav, Advs.

versus

UNION OF INDIA & ORS. .....Respondents

Through: Mr Premtosh K Mishra, CGSC, Mr Ankur Tyagi G. P., Mr Krish Bhatia & Mr Vijit Singh, Advs. for R-1 to 3.
Mr. Pradeep Kumar Tripathi, Mr. Robin Kumar, Advs. for R-4.

CORAM:
JUSTICE PRATHIBA M. SINGH
JUSTICE DINESH BHATT

Prathiba M. Singh, J. (Oral)

1. This hearing has been done through hybrid mode.

2. This matter is being taken up today for hearing as 16th November, 2026 was declared a holiday on account of ***Chhath Puja*** *vide* ***Notification No.110/G-4/Genl.-I/DHC*** dated 11th November, 2026.

3. The present petition has been filed by the Petitioner - Kuldeepsingh Nagusingh Thakur under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, *inter alia*, seeking directions against the order dated 18th September, 2026 passed by the Cooperative Election Authority *(hereinafter, 'CEA')* under the Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India.

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4. The brief background of the present case is that the Petitioner is a member of the Janata Sahakari Bank Limited, Dharashiv, 24/28 to 30, 24/33 to 38, Solapur Road, Distt. Dharashiv, Pin Code - 413501 (hereinafter '*Bank*').

5. The elections of the said Bank had been called by the CEA *vide* its order dated 18th September, 2026.

6. *Vide* the order dated 18th September, 2026, a Returning Officer was appointed and the Election Programme for conduct of elections was issued.

7. The schedule for the Election Program for the Board of Directors has been fixed between 27th October, 2026 till 10th December, 2026. After declaration of the same, the Election Programme for office bearers has also been fixed on 14th December, 2026 and 15th December, 2026.

8. The case of the Petitioner is that the said Bank is a Multi-State Co-operative Society, which is based out of Maharashtra and Karnataka. At present, due to a drought situation in Maharashtra, all the elections called for by the State Co-operative Election Authority have been postponed by the Maharashtra government, *vide* its order dated 27th October, 2026.

9. The relevant portion of the order dated 27th October, 2026 is set out below:

> *"ORDER*
>
> *Taking into consideration the above submissions, as per the provisions under Section 73K-K of the Maharashtra Cooperative Societies Act, 1960, since the Government has declared a drought situation in the State at present, excluding Cooperative Housing Societies, as well as excluding those cases of cooperative societies where the Hon'ble High Court/Hon'ble Supreme Court has ordered the holding of elections of the cooperative society, and excluding those cooperative societies*

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whose stage of nomination for elections has commenced prior to the date of this order, the elections of all cooperative societies in the districts where the Government has declared drought are hereby postponed from the date of this order until further orders, from the stage at which they currently stand.

The said order has been made available on the website of the Government of Maharashtra www.maharashtra.gov.in and its code is 202610272110202047. This order is being issued under digital signature attestation.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra.

(Santosh Patil)
Additional Registrar and Joint Secretary,
Government of Maharashtra"

10. The Petitioner is stated to have made a representation dated 28th October, 2026 to the Chairperson, CEA, placing reliance upon the order dated 27th October, 2026 of the Maharashtra Government and seeking postponement of the elections of the present Bank as well.

11. However, the said representation made to the CEA was not decided.

12. On 3rd November, 2026, the matter was heard and the Court had directed as under:

"[...] 12. Mr. Choudhari, ld. Senior Counsel appearing for the Petitioner submits that the Petitioner's representation may be decided by the Central Co-operative Election Authority.

13. The Court has heard ld. Sr. Counsel for the Petitioner as well as the ld. Counsel for appearing for all Respondent Nos.1 to 3.

14. The first and the foremost fact that the Court has noticed is that the Bank has even not been made a

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party in the present petition. Thus, the present petition in its present form would not even be maintainable.

15. However, on the oral prayer of ld. Senior Counsel for the Petitioner, the said Bank is impleaded as Respondent No.4. Let amended memo of parties be filed by tomorrow i.e., 4th November, 2026.

16. Let a copy of this writ petition be served upon the said Bank today itself through all permissible modes, upon appropriate steps being taken by the Petitioner.

17. ***In the meanwhile, let the Co-operative Election Authority take a decision on the Petitioner's representation dated 28th October, 2026 and decide as to whether the elections deserve to be postponed or not.***

18. Let a copy of today's order be communicated forthwith by ld. Counsel for the Respondents to the Chairperson of the Co-operative Election Authority."

13. As can be seen from above order, the CEA was directed to take a decision on the Petitioner's representation dated 28th October, 2026, on the question as to whether the elections ought to be postponed or not.

14. Today, an order has been handed over by ld. Counsel for the CEA, dated 10th November, 2026, wherein the CEA has taken a decision not to postpone the elections and to continue the election program of the Bank, in terms of order dated 18th September, 2026 .

15. A copy of the order dated 10th November, 2026 has been handed across to the Court, and the same is taken on record.

16. In view of the decision now taken by the CEA, the prayer of the Petitioner for deciding the representation stands satisfied.

17. The Returning Officer for the elections has already been appointed. In

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view thereof, the present writ petition has become infructuous and is accordingly disposed of.

18. All rights and remedies in respect of the order passed by the CEA are left open.

19. Petition is disposed of in these terms. All pending applications, if any, are also disposed of.

PRATHIBA M. SINGH
JUDGE

DINESH BHATT
JUDGE

NOVEMBER 17, 2026
Rahul/sm

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