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

CNR No. DLHC010377452026

+ **W.P.(C) 11742/2026**

AMIT MEHRA

.....Petitioner

Through: Mr Amit Kumar, Mr Vaibhav Mahal,
Ms Nishi Sharma, Ms Sakshi, Ms
Nishu Kumari, Advs.

versus

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY THROUGH ITS

REGISTRAR & ANR.

.....Respondents

Through: Mr. Karan Prakash, Mr. Om Bali, Ms.
Deepshikha Kumar, Advs. for JNU

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JASMEET SINGH

ORDER

% **14.08.2026**

1. This is a writ petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India seeking the following prayers :-

“1. Issue a Writ of Certiorari, or any other appropriate writ, order, or direction, calling for the records of Respondent No. 1 concerning the admission criteria for the Academic Session 2026–27, and quash Section V of the JNU e- Prospectus for the Academic Session 2026–27, insofar as it relates to the award of "Deprivation Points";
2. Issue a Writ of Mandamus, or any other appropriate writ, order, or direction, commanding Respondent No. 1 to process, compile, and finalize all admissions,



institutional merit lists, selection rankings, and counselling processes for the Academic Session 2026–27 strictly and exclusively on the basis of the raw scores, normalized marks, or percentiles achieved by candidates in the CUET administered by the National Testing Agency, without granting any Deprivation Points or other unauthorized regional weightage;

3. Issue a Writ of Certiorari, or any other appropriate writ, order, or direction, quashing and setting aside any merit list(s), provisional or final admission(s), or counselling outcome(s) already declared, undertaken, or finalized by Respondent No. 1 pursuant to Section V of the e-Prospectus for the Academic Session 2026–27, and direct Respondent No. 1 to re-prepare the same strictly on the basis of raw CUET scores/percentiles;

4. Award costs of the present petition in favour of the Petitioner;...”

2. For the reasons stated in the petition, issue notice.
3. Mr. Prakash, learned counsel accepts notice on behalf of the respondent No.1/JNU, seeks and is granted 4 days to file a reply.
4. Issue notice to respondent No. 2 through all modes including electronic on the petitioner taking steps within 1 week from today.
5. In the meantime, Mr. Kumar, learned counsel for the petitioner, presses for interim orders.
6. In the present case, the petitioner, an aspiring student, is seeking admission to postgraduate courses at Jawaharlal Nehru University



(“JNU”) for the Academic Session 2026–27.

7. The Section V of the JNU e-Prospectus implements a mechanism of awarding upto 12 ‘Deprivation Points’, wherein one point Deprivation Point is equal to 3 marks, to candidates purely based on geographical location of their prior schooling. The said Section is extracted herein below: -



V. DEPRIVATION POINTS

Details of Deprivation points awarded to candidates as applicable:-

Deprivation Points (upto a maximum of 12 points) are given to the candidates of the following categories:

1. A candidate would get separate points for each educational level i.e. 10th/ High School/ Matriculation/ 12th level/Intermediate, B.A./B.Sc. and M.A./M.Sc. from either a Quartile 1 or Quartile 2 District as given below:

Quartile 1 Marks

Programme of study applied for	*10 th /12 th	UG
UG.	6	
PG	3	3

Quartile 2 Marks

Programme of study applied for	*10 th /12 th	UG
UG	4	
PG	2	2

***Note for 10th and 12th class quartile**

If 10th from Q1 and 12th from Q1 Then benefit of Q1 If 10th from Q1 and 12th from Q2 Then benefit of Q1 If 10th from Q2 and 12th from Q1 Then benefit of Q1

If 10th from Q2 and 12th from Q2 Then benefit of Q2

List of Districts quartile drawn from each state in the form of Quartile 1 & Quartile 2 by using the following four parameters as per the provisional figures of the Census of India 2011 are listed below for information of intending candidates:

1. Percent female illiteracy;
2. Percent agricultural workers;
3. Percent rural population; and
4. Percentage of household having no latrine within the premises.

Candidates hailing from Districts of Quartile 1 or 2 (The Districts in which the candidates reside) and have passed and/or appearing in their respective qualifying examination through Distant Education programme are also eligible for award of deprivation points, as the case may be. They should indicate the State, District and District Code under respective column of the Application Form. They should also indicate in respective Column of the application that they have passed and/or appearing in the qualifying examination through Distant Education programme.

2. All Kashmiri Migrants are eligible for grant of 05 (five) deprivation points on production of registration documents from the notified authorities certifying their Kashmiri Migrant Status.
3. All female/Transgender candidates are eligible for deprivation points as per details given below:

SC/ST/OBC(NCL)/PWD/Quartile 1/Quartile 2	7 deprivation points
Other Candidates (UR not falling under either Quartile 1/Quartile 2)	5 Deprivation Points

NOTE: This benefit of deprivation points will be given only to UG/PG/COP/ADOP programmes except B.Tech., M.Sc. (Biotechnology), M.Sc. (Computational and Integrative Sciences through GAT-B), MBA, M.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering & Electronics and Communication Engineering of School of Engineering, DOP and Ph.D. programmes.



DETAILS OF THE STATE-WISE LISTS OF VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF QUARTILE 1 AND 2 DRAWN BY THE UNIVERSITY (As per the provisional figures of the Census of India 2011)

State	District Name & Code			
	Quartile 1	Distt. Code	Quartile 2	Distt. Code
ANDHRA PRADESH	Mahbubnagar	0101	Prakasam	0151
	Srikakulam	0102	Adilabad	0152
	Vizianagaram	0103	Nalgonda	0153
			Kurnool	0154
			Medak	0155
			Anantapur	0156
			Khammam	0157
			Nizamabad	0158
			Warangal	0159
			Karimnagar	0160
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	Kurung Kumey	0104	East Kameng	0251
	Anjaw	0105	Upper Subansiri	0252
			Changlang	0253
			Tirap	0254
			Upper Siang	0255
ASSAM			Kokrajhar	0351
			Chirang	0352
			Dhemaji	0353
			Baksa	0354
			Darrang	0355
			Dhubri	0356
			Udalguri	0357
			Karbi Anglong	0358
			Morigaon	0359
BIHAR	Madhepura	0401	Bhojpur	0451
	Araria	0402	Rohtas	0452
	Supaul	0403	Begusarai	0453
	Purnia	0404	Bhagalpur	0454
	Banka	0405		
	Saharsa	0406		
	Madhubani	0407		
	Katihar	0408		
	Kishanganj	0409		
	West Champaran	0410		
	Sheohar	0411		
	East Champaran	0412		
	Sitamarhi	0413		
	Samastipur	0414		
	Khagaria	0415		
	Jamui	0416		
	Nawada	0417		
	Darbhanga	0418		
	Arwal	0419		
	Kaimur	0420		
	Gopalganj	0421		
	Saran	0422		
	Vaishali	0423		
	Gaya	0424		
	Siwan	0425		
	Jehanabad	0426		
	Aurangabad	0427		
	Lakhisarai	0428		
	Buxar	0429		
	Muzaffarpur	0430		
	Sheikhpura	0431		
	Nalanda	0432		

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State	District Name and Code			
	Quartile 1	Distt. Code	Quartile 2	Distt. Code
CHHATISGARH	Bijapur	0501	Rajnandgaon	0551
	Bastar	0502	Rajnandgaon	0552
	Dantewada			
	Narayanpur	0503	Bilaspur	0553
	Kabirdhem (Formerly Kawardha)	0504	Dhamtan	0554
	Bastar	0505	Koriya	0555
	Surguja	0506	Korba	0556
	Jashpur	0507		
	Mahasamund	0508		
	Kanker	0509		
	Jangir - Champa	0510		
GUJARAT	Dahod	0601	Sabarkantha	0651
	Narmada	0602	Patn	0652
	Tapi	0603	Surendranagar	0653
	Banaskantha	0604		
	Dang	0605		
	Panchmahal	0606		
HARYANA	Mewat	0701		
HIMACHAL PRADESH			Chamba	0851
			Kullu	0852
JAMMU & KASHMIR	Ramban	0901	Rajouri	0951
	Reasi	0902	Poonch	0952
	Kishtwar	0903	Doda	0953
			Shopian	0954
			Kulgam	0955
			Udhampur	0956
			Kathua	0957
			Kupwara	0958
JHARKHAND	Godda	1001	Koderma	1051
	Garia	1002	Hazaribag	1052
	Dumka	1003	Seraikela Kharsawan	1053
	Latehar	1004		
	Chatra	1005		
	Gumla	1006		
	Khunti	1007		
	Pakur	1008		
	Simdega	1009		
	West Singhbhum	1010		
	Girdih	1011		
	Jamtara	1012		
	Sahibganj	1013		
	Palamu	1014		
	Lohardaga	1015		
	Deoghar	1016		
KARNATAKA	Yadgir	1101	Chamarajnagar	1151
	Raichur	1102	Koppal	1152
			Vijapur	1153
			Mandya	1154
			Bagalkot	1155
			Chitradurga	1156
			Bidar	1157
			Gulbarga	1158
			Chikkaballapur	1159
			Belgaum	1160
			Gadag	1161
			Tumkur	1162
			Haver District	1163
			Hassan	1164



State	District Name & Code			
	Quartile 1	Distt. Code	Quartile 2	Distt. Code
MADHYA PRADESH	Alirajpur	1201	Datia	1251
	Jhabua	1202	Betul	1252
	Dindori	1203	Balaghat	1253
	Barwani	1204	Rewa	1254
	Sheopur	1205	Anuppur	1255
	Sidhi	1206	Damoh	1256
	Tikamgarh	1207	Sehore	1257
	Rajgarh	1208	Morena	1258
	Shivpuri	1209	Neemuch	1259
	Mandla	1210	Vidisha	1260
	Panna	1211	Ratlam	1261
	Singrauli	1212	Bhind	1262
	Khargone (West Nimar)	1213	Chhindwara	1263
	Ashok Nagar	1214	Katni	1264
	Dhar	1215	Dewas	1265
	Umaria	1216	Narsinghpur	1266
	Shajapur	1217	Raisen	1267
	Guna	1218	Satna	1268
	Chhatarpur	1219	Burhanpur	1269
	Seoni	1220	Harda	1270
	Khandwa (East Nimar)	1221		
	Mandsaur	1222		
	Shahdol	1223		
MAHARASHTRA	Nandurbar	1301	Gadchiroli	1351
			Jalna	1352
			Hingoli	1353
			Beed	1354
			Osmanabad	1355
			Parbhani	1356
			Washim	1357
			Dhule	1358
			Nanded	1359
			Yavatmal	1360
			Buldhana	1361
			Latur	1362
MEGHALAYA			Jaintia Hills	1451
MIZORAM			Lawngtlai	1551
NAGALAND			Mon	1651
			Kiphire	1652
			Tuenseng	1653
ORISSA	Nabarangpur	1701	Balasore	1751
	Malkangiri	1702	Nayagarh	1752
	Nuapada	1703	Kendrapara	1753
	Kalahandi	1704	Bhadrak	1754
	Rayagada	1705	Dhenkanal	1755
	Koraput	1706	Ganjam	1756
	Gajapati	1707	Jajpur	1757
	Boudh (Bauda)	1708	Angul	1758
	Kandhamal	1709		
	Debagarh (Deogarh)	1710		
	Mayurbhanj	1711		
	Balangir	1712		
	Subarnapur (Sonepur)	1713		
	Bargarh (Baragarh)	1714		
	Kendujhar (Keonjhar)	1715		

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State State	District Name & Code			
	Quartile 1	Distt. Code	Quartile 2	Distt. Code
RAJASTHAN	Pratapgarh	1801	Nagaur	1851
	Banswara	1802	Udaipur	1852
	Jalore	1803	Dholpur	1853
	Barmer	1804	Alwar	1854
	Jhalawar	1805	Pali	1855
	Dungapur	1806	Churu	1856
	Karauli	1807	Jodhpur	1857
	Jaisalmer	1808		
	Chittorgarh	1809		
	Bundi	1810		
	Dausa	1811		
	Tonk	1812		
	Sawai Madhopur	1813		
	Baran	1814		
	Rajsamand	1815		
	Sirohi	1816		
	Bharatpur	1817		
	Bhilwara	1818		
TAMIL NADU	Ariyalur	1901	Perambalur	1951
			Viluppuram	1952
			Dharmapuri	1953
			Tiruvannamalai	1954
			Pudukkottai	1955
			Krishnagiri	1956
UTTAR PRADESH	Shravasti	2001	Ghazipur	2051
	Balrampur	2002	Etah	2052
	Bahraich	2003	Mahoba	2053
	Siddharthnagar	2004	Unnao	2054
	Gonda	2005	Azamgarh	2055
	Maharajganj	2006	Shahjahanpur	2056
	Kaushambi	2007	Ambedkar Nagar	2057
	Chitrakoot	2008	Pilibhit	2058
	Budaun	2009	Deoria	2059
	Kushinagar	2010	Ayodhya	2060
	Lalitpur	2011	Hamirpur	2061
	Sitapur	2012	Kanpur Dehat (Ramabai Nagar)	2062
	Sant Kabir Nagar	2013	Mainpuri	2063
	Barabanki	2014	Mirzapur	2064
	Basti	2015	Ballia	2065
	Lakhimpur Kheri	2016	Kannauj	2066
	Hardoi	2017	Chandauli	2067
	Sultanpur	2018	Sant Ravidas Nagar	2068
	Raebareli	2019	Auraiya	2069
	Pratapgarh	2020	Hathras (Mahamaya Nagar)	2070
	Kanshi Ram Nagar	2021	Farrukhabad	2071
	Banda	2022	Jalaun	2072
	Sonbhadra	2023	Gorakhpur	2073
	Jaunpur District	2024	Rampur	2074
	Fatehpur	2025	Amroha (Jyotiba Phule Nagar)	2075
			Mau	2076
			Etawah	2077

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State	District Name & Code Quartile 1	Distt. Code	Quartile 2	Distt. Code
UTTARAKHAND			Uttarkashi	2151
			Bageshwar	2152
			Rudraprayag	2153
			Tehri Garhwal	2154
			Almora	2155
			Champawat	2156
WEST BENGAL	Purulia	2201	Bankura	2251
	Uttar Dinajpur	2202	Birbhum	2252
			Malda	2253
			Dakshin Dinajpur	2254
			Paschim Medinipur	2255

Note: Reservation and Benefit of deprivation point are given on the basis of particulars furnished by the candidates in the relevant field of the online application form. In case of failure to produce documentary evidence at the time of admission/registration, the candidate will be declared as ineligible for admission. In case of submission of false information by the candidate, his/her admission will be cancelled, ipso-facto.

8. Mr. Prakash, learned counsel for the respondent No.1/JNU, states that awarding of deprivation points is based on the policy of JNU to ensure adequate number of students. He relies on the First Schedule of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Act, 1966, ("**JNU Act**") which reads as under:-



THE FIRST SCHEDULE
(See Section 4)

The University shall endeavour to promote the study of the principles for which Jawaharlal Nehru worked during his life-time, national integration, social justice, secularism, democratic way of life, international understanding and scientific approach to the problems of society.

Towards this end, the University shall: -

- (i) foster the composite culture of India and establish such departments or institutions as may be required for the study and development of the languages, arts and culture of India ;
- (ii) take special measures to facilitate students and teachers from all over India to join the University and participate in its academic programmes;
- (iii) promote in the students and teachers an awareness and understanding of the social needs of the country and prepare them for fulfilling such needs;
- (iv) make special provision for integrated courses in humanities, science and technology in the educational programmes of the University;
- (v) take appropriate measures for promoting interdisciplinary studies in the University;
- (vi) establish such departments or institutions as may be necessary for the study of languages, literature and life of foreign countries with a view to inculcating in the students a world perspective and international understanding;
- (vii) provide facilities for students and teachers from other countries to participate in the academic programmes and life of the University.



9. He states that pursuant to the same, the matter was placed before the academic council and the academic council took the decision and hence, the deprivation points have been granted to the students after due deliberation.
10. Mr. Prakash, learned counsel for the respondent No.1/JNU, states that all offer letters of post graduate course i.e., 1500 and undergraduate course i.e., 451, have already been given.
11. I have heard learned counsels for the parties.
12. *Prima-facie*, I am unable to agree with the contentions of the leaned counsel for the respondent No.1/JNU. By virtue of deprivation points, the respondent university have altered the marks obtained by a student and reserved the right to grant upto 12 marks for admission. The same to my mind, appears to alter the result by permitting the respondent university to add marks to the marks obtained by a candidate in the CUET examination.
13. To my mind, the reliance placed by leaned counsel for the respondent No.1/JNU on any of the provisions do not permit respondent No. 1 university to add marks to the score obtained by any candidate. If this is permitted, the sanctity of an entrance exam will no longer remain and a university through ordinances will be able to alter the score obtained by a candidate in a competitive exam. That is antithesis to the whole concept of a competitive exam.
14. For the said reasons, I am of the view that the interim orders need to be passed.
15. Mr. Kumar, learned counsel for the petitioner, even though has not filed any application seeking interim orders, orally requests that in case



interim orders are not passed, admissions will be crystallized on the basis of deprivation points, which cannot be reversed.

16. I am in agreement with his submissions. In case this Court tomorrow comes to a finding that the respondent university could not have granted deprivation points to candidates and admissions are already done, the same will result in an irreversible situation.
17. Hence, till the next date of hearing, the admissions based on deprivation points shall not be finalized and no further steps will be taken on the basis of deprivation points qua the admission in respondent university.
18. The documents handed over in court today are taken on record.
19. List on 24.08.2026.
20. *Dasti* under signature of Court Master.

JASMEET SINGH, J

AUGUST 14, 2026/sp