2026:DHC:6602

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

\# **CNR No. DLHC010260092026**

% ***Date of Decision: 12th August, 2026***

\+ CONT.CAS(C) 1043/2026 & CM APPLs. 38705/2026, 38706/2026 & 38816/2026

CH. AISHI RAM BATRA PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST (REGD) .....Petitioner

Through: Ms. Priya Kumar, Senior Advocate with Mr. Hemant Phalpher, Mr. Karishmit Keswani, Ms. Ekaa Sharma, Mr. R.A. Iyer, Mr. Suraj Pratap and Mr. Kunal Kohli, Advocates.
Mob: 9310810018
Email: phalpher@office.com

versus

PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK & ORS. & ORS. .....Respondents

Through: Mr. Rajiv Nayar, Mr. Dayan Krishnan, Sr. Advs. with Mr. Dheeraj Nair, Mr. Akhil Anand, Ms. Vishrutyi Sahni, Mr. Sahir Seth, Ms. Muskaan Gupta, Advocates for R-4
Mob: 9650405280
Mr. Prem Prakash, Advocate for PNB
Mob: 9811688204

CORAM:
HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE MINI PUSHKARNA

MINI PUSHKARNA, J (ORAL):

1. The present petition has been filed for initiating contempt proceedings against the respondent-Punjab National Bank ("PNB") for wilful disobedience and non-compliance of the order dated 29th May, 2026, passed by this Court in *I.A. 14253/2026* in *CS(OS) 303/2026.*

2. The order dated 29th May, 2026, reads as under:

"I.A. 14253/2026 (under Order XXXIX Rules 1 & 2 read with Section 151 CPC by D-1 and D-7) & I.A. 13372/2026 (under Order XXXIX Rules 1 & 2 read with Section 151 CPC by plaintiff) in CS(OS) 303/2026.

1. List on 09.07.2026.

2. ***In the meanwhile, it is directed that the banks will comply with the Minutes of Meetings of Governing Body dated 20th and 22nd December, 2025 (Page Nos. 87 to 90) of the documents of the plaintiff in CS(OS) 303/2026.***

3. Interim orders, if any, to continue."

(Emphasis Supplied)

3. Reading of the aforesaid order dated 29th May, 2026, clearly shows that there is a direction by the Roster Bench in the suit proceedings that the respondent-PNB will comply with the Minutes of Meeting ("MoM") of the Governing Body dated 20th December, 2025 and 22nd December, 2025.

4. Learned Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioner has relied upon the MoM of the Governing Body dated 20th December, 2025 and 22nd December, 2025, relevant portion of which, reads as under:

"xxx xxx xxx

3. Delegation of power to Trustees and operating officials for operation of all Bank Accounts.

The Board of Governor after detailed deliberations decided that henceforth the powers of signing all the cheques for payments and transfer of Funds for and on behalf of the Ch. Aishi Ram Batra Charitable Pulbic Trust will be operated as under :-

i) Henceforth the signatories on all cheques where Trust Account are being maintained will be as under.

a) All cheques will be signed by three Authorized Signatories as per detail given here under –
Each cheque to be signed by atleast following three authorized signatories -

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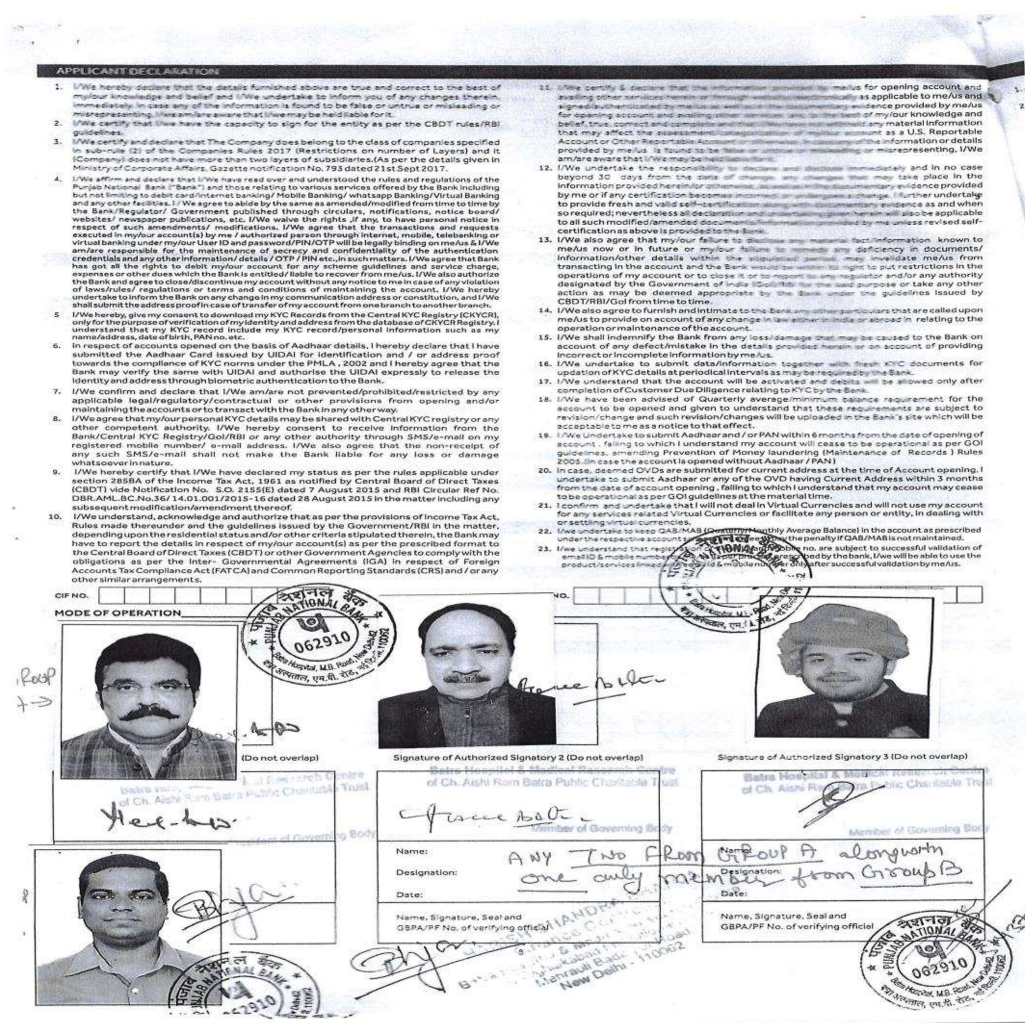
i) Sh. Hemant Batra (President)
ii) Sh. Jai Batra (Trustee) It was decided that signature of Mr. Jai Batra will be taken on all the payments when he is in town.
ii) Sh. Susheel Kumar Batra (Trustee) Along with Financial Controller – Presently Mr. H.C. Bhanja which will be mandatory for all payments.

In this regard suitable Board Resolution will be drawn treating as an approval and the same will be signed by the President and the Secretary of the Trust.

Meeting ended the vote of thanks to Chair.

xxx xxx xxx"

5. On the basis of the aforesaid MoM, it is the case of the petitioner that mandate was given to the respondent-PNB, as under:



APPLICANT DECLARATION

1. I/We hereby declare that the details furnished above are true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge and belief and I/We undertake to inform you of any changes therein, immediately. In case any of the information is found to be false or untrue or misleading or misrepresenting, I/we am/are aware that I/we may be held liable for it.
2. I/We certify that I/we have the capacity to sign for the entity as per the CBDT rules/RBI guidelines.
3. I/We certify and declare that The Company does belong to the class of companies specified in sub-rule (2) of the Companies Rules 2017 (Restrictions on number of Layers) and it (Company) does not have more than two layers of subsidiaries.(As per the details given in Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Gazette notification No. 793 dated 21st Sept 2017.
4. I/We affirm and declare that I/We have read over and understood the rules and regulations of the Punjab National Bank ("Bank") and those relating to various services offered by the Bank including but not limiting to debit card/internet banking/ Mobile Banking/ whatsapp Banking/Virtual Banking and any other facilities. I / We agree to abide by the same as amended/modified from time to time by the Bank/Regulator/ Government published through circulars, notifications, notice board/ websites/ newspaper publications, etc. I/We waive the rights ,if any, to have personal notice in respect of such amendments/ modifications. I/We agree that the transactions and requests executed in my/our account(s) by me / authorized person through internet, mobile, telebanking or virtual banking under my/our User ID and password/PIN/OTP will be legally binding on me/us & I/We am/are responsible for the maintenance of secrecy and confidentiality of the authentication credentials and any other information/ details / OTP / PIN etc.,in such matters. I/We agree that Bank has got all the rights to debit my/our account for any scheme guidelines and service charge, expenses or other dues which the Bank is entitled/ liable to recover from me/us. I/We also authorize the Bank and agree to close/discontinue my account without any notice to me in case of any violation of laws/rules/ regulations or terms and conditions of maintaining the account. I/We hereby undertake to inform the Bank on any change in my communication address or constitution, and I/We shall submit the address proof in case of transfer of my account from one branch to another branch.
5 I/We hereby, give my consent to download my KYC Records from the Central KYC Registry (CKYCR), only for the purpose of verification of my identity and address from the database of CKYCR Registry. I understand that my KYC record include my KYC record/personal information such as my name/address, date of birth, PAN no. etc.
6. In respect of accounts opened on the basis of Aadhaar details, I hereby declare that I have submitted the Aadhaar Card issued by UIDAI for identification and / or address proof towards the compliance of KYC norms under the PMLA , 2002 and I hereby agree that the Bank may verify the same with UIDAI and authorise the UIDAI expressly to release the identity and address through biometric authentication to the Bank.
7. I/We confirm and declare that I/We am/are not prevented/prohibited/restricted by any applicable legal/regulatory/contractual or other provisions from opening and/or maintaining the accounts or to transact with the Bank in any other way.
8. I/We agree that my/our personal KYC details may be shared with Central KYC registry or any other competent authority. I/We hereby consent to receive information from the Bank/Central KYC Registry/GoI/RBI or any other authority through SMS/e-mail on my registered mobile number/ e-mail address. I/We also agree that the non-receipt of any such SMS/e-mail shall not make the Bank liable for any loss or damage whatsoever in nature.
9. I/We hereby certify that I/We have declared my status as per the rules applicable under section 285BA of the Income Tax Act, 1961 as notified by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) vide Notification No. S.O. 2155(E) dated 7 August 2015 and RBI Circular Ref No. DBR.AML.BC.No.36/ 14.01.001/2015-16 dated 28 August 2015 in the matter including any subsequent modification/amendment thereof.
10. I/We understand, acknowledge and authorize that as per the provisions of Income Tax Act, Rules made thereunder and the guidelines issued by the Government/RBI in the matter, depending upon the residential status and/or other criteria stipulated therein, the Bank may have to report the details in respect of my/our account(s) as per the prescribed format to the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) or other Government Agencies to comply with the obligations as per the Inter- Governmental Agreements (IGA) in respect of Foreign Accounts Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) and Common Reporting Standards (CRS) and / or any other similar arrangements.
11. I/We certify & declare that the [illegible] me/us for opening account and availing other services [illegible] as applicable to me/us and signed/authenticated [illegible] evidence provided by me/us for opening account and availing other [illegible] of my/our knowledge and belief, true, correct and complete [illegible] any material information that may affect the assessment [illegible] account as a U.S. Reportable Account or Other Reportable Account [illegible] information or details provided by me/us is found to be [illegible] or misrepresenting, I/We am/are aware that I/We may be [illegible]
12. I/We undertake the responsibility [illegible] and in no case beyond 30 days from the date of change, any changes that may take place in the information provided herein/or otherwise [illegible] evidence provided by me or if any certification becomes [illegible] I further undertake to provide fresh and valid self-certification [illegible] evidence as and when so required; nevertheless all declaration [illegible] will also be applicable to all such modified/amended documents [illegible] unless revised self-certification as above is provided to the Bank.
13. I/We also agree that my/our failure to [illegible] fact/information known to me/us now or in future or my/our failure to [illegible] deficiency in documents/ information/other details within the [illegible] may invalidate me/us from transacting in the account and the Bank [illegible] to put restrictions in the operations of my account or to close it or [illegible] and/or any authority designated by the Government of India [illegible] purpose or take any other action as may be deemed appropriate by the Bank under the guidelines issued by CBDT/RBI/GoI from time to time.
14. I/We also agree to furnish and intimate to the Bank [illegible] that are called upon me/us to provide on account of any change [illegible] relating to the operation or maintenance of the account.
15. I/We shall indemnify the Bank from any loss/damage that may be caused to the Bank on account of any defect/mistake in the details [illegible] of providing incorrect or incomplete information by me/us.
16. I/We undertake to submit data/information together with fresh KYC documents for updation of KYC details at periodical intervals as may be required by the Bank.
17. I/We understand that the account will be activated and debits will be allowed only after completion of Customer Due Diligence relating to KYC by the Bank.
18. I/We have been advised of Quarterly average/minimum balance requirement for the account to be opened and given to understand that these requirements are subject to revision/change and such revision/changes will be uploaded in the Bank's site which will be acceptable to me as a notice to that effect.
19. I/We Undertake to submit Aadhaar and / or PAN within 6 months from the date of opening of account , failing to which I understand my account will cease to be operational as per GOI guidelines, amending Prevention of Money laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules 2005.(In case the account is opened without Aadhaar / PAN)
20. In case, deemed OVDs are submitted for current address at the time of Account opening, I undertake to submit Aadhaar or any of the OVD having Current Address within 3 months from the date of account opening , failing to which I understand that my account may cease to be operational as per GOI guidelines at the material time.
21. I confirm and undertake that I will not deal in Virtual Currencies and will not use my account for any services related Virtual Currencies or facilitate any person or entity, in dealing with or settling virtual currencies.
22. I/we undertake to keep QAB/MAB (Quarterly/Monthly Average Balance) in the account as prescribed under the respective account [illegible] the penalty if QAB/MAB is not maintained.
23. I/we understand that registration [illegible] mobile no. are subject to successful validation of emailID & mobile number [illegible] prescribed by the bank, I/we will be able to use the product/services linked [illegible] & mobile number only after successful validation by me/us.

CIF NO.

MODE OF OPERATION

(Do not overlap) | Signature of Authorized Signatory 2 (Do not overlap) | Signature of Authorized Signatory 3 (Do not overlap)

Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre of Ch. Aishi Ram Batra Public Charitable Trust

Member of Governing Body

Name: ANY TWO FROM GROUP A alongwith
Designation: one only member from GroupB
Date:

Name, Signature, Seal and GBPA/PF No. of verifying official

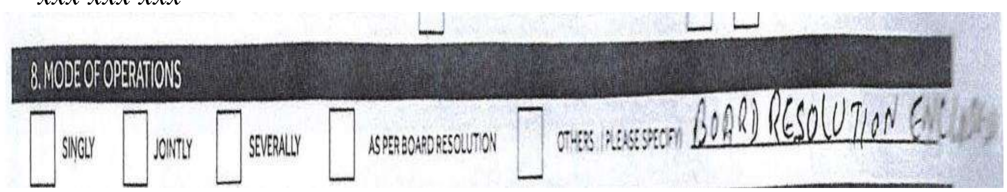
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK 062910

6. Learned Senior Counsel for the petitioner submits that since there was

already a Know Your Customer ("KYC") form filed before the PNB, the mandate to the respondent-PNB was very clear in regard to the authorised signatories as mentioned in the KYC form.

7. She draws the attention of this Court to serial no. 8 in the KYC form, which is reproduced as under:

> *"xxx xxx xxx*


8. MODE OF OPERATIONS
SINGLY JOINTLY SEVERALLY AS PER BOARD RESOLUTION OTHERS (PLEASE SPECIFY) BOARD RESOLUTION

> *xxx xxx xxx"*

8. Thus, it is the case on behalf of the petitioner that on the basis of the aforesaid MoM, there is a very clear mandate to the respondent-PNB, to the effect that the signatures on the cheques would be of any of the two members from Group A, along with one member from Group B, as mentioned in the Board Resolution dated 22nd December, 2025.

9. Thus, she submits that the order dated 29th May, 2026, is very categorical to the effect that the PNB had to comply with the MoM of the Governing Body dated 20th December, 2025, and 22nd December, 2025, and the mandate thereto.

10. *Per contra*, it is the case on behalf of respondent no. 4 that the E-mail dated 1st June, 2026, was written by him for withholding the encashment of the cheques and any other banking activities, on the basis of order of this Court dated 29th May, 2026.

11. The said E-mail reads as under:

From: Jai Batra <jai.batra@batrahospitaldelhi.org>
Date: 1 June 2026 at 5:13:02 PM IST
To: bo062910@pnb.co.in, sharma6@pnb.co.in, alok@pnb.co.in
Cc: Satish Chander
<satish.chander@batrahospitaldelhi.org>, hcb_accounts@batrahospitaldelhi.org
Subject: Order

To

The Branch Manager
Punjab National
Tughlakabad Branch
Mehrauli Badarpur Road
New Delhi – 110062

Subject: Order dated May 29, 2026 | CS(OS) No. 303 of 2026 (Jai Batra v. Hemant Batra & Ors.), Delhi High Court | Re: Operation of Bank Accounts of Ch. Aishi Ram Batra Public Charitable Trust / Batra Hospital

Dear Sir / Madam,

I write in relation to the bank accounts maintained with Punjab National Bank in the name of Ch. Aishi Ram Batra Public Charitable Trust ("Society") / Batra Hospital and Medical Research Centre.

1. As you are aware, there is a civil suit pending before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi challenging the election of the President of the Society on December 20/22, 2025. During the course of the hearing, the banking operations of the Society / Hospital have also become subject matter of the ongoing proceedings.

2. At the hearing on May 29, 2026 in the said suit, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi directed that "the banks will comply with the Minutes of the Meeting of Governing Body dated 20th and 22nd December, 2025" ("Minutes"). To clarify further, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi records that these Minutes correspond to the Minutes enclosed at Page No.87 to 90 of the Documents filed by the Plaintiff in CS (OS) No. 303 of 2026.

3. For ease of reference, the relevant extract from Page No. 87 of the Plaintiff's Documents is reproduced below:

4. In compliance with the above, you are requested to kindly ensure that all banking operations are carried out strictly in terms of the aforesaid Minutes, as directed by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court.

5. If the bank receives any cheque or payment instruction without my signature, kindly inform me immediately so that I can make myself available and take necessary steps to sign the same without any delay.

6. For ease of reference, I am enclosing the copies of the following documents:

i. Order dated May 29, 2026, passed by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in CS(OS) No. 303 of 2026;

The present communication is being issued for information and necessary action.

Regards,
Jai Batra
Founder Member of the Governing Body
Ch. Aishi Ram Batra Public Charitable Trust (Regd.)

12. Thus, it is submitted that there was a categorical direction by the Court *vide* order dated 29th May, 2026, that only the MoM of the Governing

Body dated 20th December, 2025, and 22nd December, 2025, had to be followed by the respondent-PNB, which are very clear to the effect that the cheques had to be signed by three authorised representatives, i.e., Sh. Hemant Batra, Sh. Jai Batra, and Sh. Sushil Kumar Batra.

13. This Court notes that the order dated 29th May, 2026, is being interpreted by both the parties in a divergent and conflicted manner.

14. The case of the petitioner is that *vide* the said Court order, the respondent-PNB had to carry out the mandate given to them as per the MoM of the Governing Body dated 20th December, 2025, and 22nd May, 2025.

15. On the other hand, it is the case of respondent no. 4-Mr. Jai Batra that the mandate as given in the said MoM, does not make any reference to the requirement of signatures by any authorised members, whose names have been recorded in either Group A or Group B.

16. This Court is informed that the applications with regard to the injunction as well as the interpretation of the order dated 29th May, 2026, is pending adjudication before the Roster Bench.

17. Considering the aforesaid, this Court is of the considered opinion that the respondent-PNB, in receipt of letters from both the sides, cannot be faulted for its action.

18. This Court takes note of the fact that while the actual interpretation of the order dated 29th May, 2026, and the resultant mandate of the respondent-PNB is still pending adjudication before the Roster Bench, no culpability can be attributed to the respondent-PNB, in the manner in which it acted.

19. This Court further notes the fact that while the said MoM between the parties stipulated that the requisite authorised signatures would be of three representatives, namely, Sh. Hemant Batra, Sh. Jai Batra, and Sh. Sushil Kumar Batra, however, the KYC form does not mention any such term.

20. Since there is a dispute between the parties as regards the authorised signatory, and that the matter still being pending adjudication before the Roster Bench, this Court is of the view that the final order passed by the Roster Bench needs to be awaited in this regard.

21. The attention of this Court has also been drawn to the order dated 10th June, 2026, passed by the Vacation Bench, which reads as under:

> ***"I.A. 14253/2026 (under Order XXXIX Rules 1 & 2 read with Section 151 CPC by D-1 and D-7) & I.A. 13372/2026 (under Order XXXIX Rules 1 & 2 read with Section 151 CPC by plaintiff) in CS(OS) 303/2026.***
> *1. List on 09.07.2026*
> *2. In the meanwhile, it is directed that the banks will comply with the Minutes of Meetings of Governing Body dated 20th and 22nd December, 2025 (Page Nos. 87 to 90) of the documents of the plaintiff in CS(OS) 303/2026.*
> *3. Interim orders, if any, to continue."*

> ***"I.A. 14253/2026 (under Order XXXIX Rules 1 & 2 read with Section 151 CPC by D-1 and D-7) & I.A. 13372/2026 (under Order XXXIX Rules 1 & 2 read with Section 151 CPC by plaintiff) in CS(OS) 303/2026.***
> *1. List on 09.07.2026*
> *2. In the meanwhile, it is directed that the banks will comply with the Minutes of Meetings of Governing Body dated 20th and 22nd December, 2025 (Page Nos. 87 to 90) of the documents of the plaintiff in CS(OS) 303/2026.*
> *3. Interim orders, if any, to continue."*

> 4. Let notice be issued to the Respondents through all permissible modes, including electronic mode, returnable on 09.07.2026.
>
> 5. In the meanwhile, the Respondent Bank shall resume normal banking operations and honour all cheques/payment instruments of the Petitioner/Hospital strictly in terms of the Resolution dated 22.12.2025 and the existing operational mandate, i.e., any two signatories from Group-A together with the mandatory signature of the Finance Controller from Group-B, till the next date of hearing.
>
> 6. The order be uploaded forthwith on the website.

22. Perusal of the aforesaid order shows that on the basis of the order

dated 29th May, 2026, passed by the Roster Bench, the Vacation Bench had directed that the respondent-PNB shall resume the normal banking operations, and honour all cheques/payment instruments of the petitioner-hospital strictly in terms of the Resolution dated 22nd December, 2025.

23. There was a further direction that the existing operational mandate, i.e., any two signatories from Group A together with the mandatory signature of the Finance Controller from Group B, shall continue.

24. At this stage, this Court notes the submission made by learned Senior Counsels appearing for respondent no. 4 that the Vacation Bench *vide* order dated 10th June, 2026, could not have passed any directions above and beyond the directions passed by the Roster Bench *vide* order dated 29th May, 2026.

25. However, since the interpretation of the directions of the Court issued *vide* order dated 29th May, 2025, is still pending adjudication before the Roster Bench, it is directed that the plea regarding the conundrum, i.e., whether the interpretation/direction by the Vacation Bench *vide* order dated 10th June, 2026, was in line with what the Roster Bench had intended, shall also be raised before the Roster Bench.

26. With the aforesaid directions, the present petition is disposed of.

27. Pending applications also stand disposed of.

28. Needless to state, with the disposal of the present petition, all the interim directions stand merged with this final order passed by this Court.

29. The next date of 11th September, 2026, stands cancelled.

MINI PUSHKARNA, J

AUGUST 12, 2026
ak