

## **On HC's directions, PPSC allows 8 students to appear for mains**



The high court on February 3 had held question 10 of the PCS general studies preliminary examination wrong and had directed the PPSC to award 2.5 marks each for it to the eight petitioners and revise the result accordingly.

Complying with the Punjab and Haryana high court's recent directions, the Punjab Public Service Commission (PPSC) on Friday allowed eight candidates to appear for the upcoming main examination of the Punjab Civil Service, starting from March 5.

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While the PPSC seemed averse to the idea of creating more slots for the mains, its latest relief to these eight students has given hopes to at least 50 others who had moved the high court with similar relief of additional marks about 10 days ago, claiming that awarding of these additional marks could help them in qualifying for the main examination and it would be injustice to them if they failed to qualify without any of their fault.

The high court on February 24 reserved its orders on these fresh petitions and is likely to pronounce its judgment on Saturday after listening to the PPSC's stand which opposed these students, stating that in most categories for the mains, candidates were already 13 times the number of posts advertised and there was no room for more.

PPSC secretary (examination) Manjit Singh Cheema said, “As per the PPSC’s mandate, it does not have any power to go beyond specific number of slots in the mains. But if it is done through the judicial orders, we will think about it after going through the judgment.”

On the status of the eight students, he said that they all have qualified for the main examination after getting those additional 2.5 marks. “Their admission cards have already been uploaded on website on Friday,” he said.

He further informed that the commission awarded the relief as it did not want to disturb the already announced schedule for the Mains.

“As of now, 1,177 students will sit for the mains that will be held from 2 pm to 5pm from March 5 to March 12 with one off day in between on March 7,” informed Cheema, adding that the mains would be held in Patiala and the announcement for the examination centre was expected in the next two days.

The test is being conducted against 101 posts of PCS officers, which were advertised in September 2015, with results of preliminary examination declared on January 5, this year.