



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

WP(C) No.1979 of 2026

Dr. Harapriya Samantaraya

.....

Petitioner

Represented by Adv. -
Sasibhusan Jena

-versus-

State of Odisha & Ors.

.....

Opposite Parties

Represented by Adv. –
A.Mohanty, A.S.C.

Dr. Purusottam Chuli
(for O.P. Nos.3 & 4)

CORAM:

**THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ADITYA KUMAR
MOHAPATRA**

ORDER

23.03.2026

Order No.

02.

1. This matter is taken up through Hybrid Arrangement (Virtual /Physical Mode).
2. Heard learned counsel for the Petitioner as well as Dr.Chulli, learned counsel appearing for the Berhampur University and learned counsel for the State. Perused the writ application as well as the prayer made therein.
3. Learned counsel for the Petitioner at the outset contended that the Petitioner, who stands at a similar footing with the employees, who are covered under the letters under Annexure-15 & 17, has approached this Court with a prayer for grant of UGC scale of pay as has been given to the employees under Annexure-15 & 17 to the writ application. He further submitted that the Utkal University at Annexure-15 and Sambalpur University at Annexure-17 have passed an order in respect of the similarly situated



Associate Professor and extended the UGC pay scale, however, the same benefit has not been extended in favour of the Petitioner by the Berhampur University.

4. Dr.Chulli, learned counsel appearing for the Berhampur University at this stage contended that a decision in this regard has to be taken by the State-Opposite Parties and that the Higher Education Department, Govt. of Odisha vide order dated 04.10.2025 at Annexure-12 has already rejected the prayer of the Petitioner. On such ground, learned counsel for the Berhampur University contended before this Court that the present writ application is devoid of merit.

5. Learned counsel for the State on the other hand contended that he has no instruction in the matter. He further prayed before this Court for grant of some time to obtain instruction and file the counter affidavit.

6. Taking into consideration the request made by learned counsel for the State, he is granted four weeks' time to file the counter affidavit after serving a copy thereof on learned counsel for the Petitioner.

7. It is open to the Opposite Party Nos.3 & 4 to file their counter affidavit in the meantime.

8. List this matter in the week commencing 22.06.2026.

(A.K. Mohapatra)
Judge