



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

WP(C) No.2503 of 2026

Sumitra Panda

.....

Petitioner

Represented by Adv. -
Ashok Kumar
Mohapatra

-versus-

1) State Of Odisha

.....

Opposite Parties

2) Special Secretary To The Govt. Of
Odisha, Dept. Of Higher Education,
Bhubaneswar
3) Joint Secretary To The Govt. Of
Odisha, Dept. Of Higher Education,
Bhubaneswar
4) Director Of Higher Education,
Bhubaneswar

Represented by Adv. –
Mr. S. Behera, AGA

CORAM:

MR. JUSTICE ADITYA KUMAR MOHAPATRA

ORDER

22.01.2026

Order No.

01. 1. This matter is taken up through Hybrid Arrangement (Virtual /Physical Mode).
2. Heard learned counsel for the Petitioner as well as learned Addl. Standing Counsel for the State. Perused the writ application as well as the documents annexed thereto.
3. By filing the present writ application, the Petitioner has prayed for the following relief:-

“In the circumstances the petitioner prays that this Hon'ble Court will graciously be pleased to issue Rule Nisi calling upon the Opp. parties to show cause as to why the order of transfer under annexure-1 shall not be quashed;

AND



If the Opp. parties fail to show cause or show insufficient cause, the said Rule may be made absolute;

AND

Issue any other writ(s)/direction(s)/order(s) as this Hon'ble Court deems fit and proper;

AND

For which act of kindness the petitioner as in duty bound shall ever pray."

4. Learned counsel for the Petitioner at the outset contended that violating the government guidelines, the Opposite Parties have transferred the present Petitioner from Hirakud College, Sambalpur to Laxmi Narayan Degree College, Jharsuguda on administrative ground. He further submitted that the Petitioner has barely nine months of service left before his retirement. In such view of the matter, learned counsel for the Petitioner contended that such transfer order has been made in violation of the government guidelines.

5. In course of his argument, learned counsel for the Petitioner contended that no proceedings are pending against the present Petitioner, neither is one contemplated against her. It was also argued that the administrative ground that has been taken in the transfer order is writ large with errors inasmuch as the same is not supported by any materials on record. He further alleged that the Petitioner, who happens to be the senior most teaching faculty as in-charge of Principal of Hirakud College, is being transferred only to accommodate a junior to the Petitioner as in-charge of Principal of Hirakud College.

6. On a careful consideration on the submission made by the learned counsel for the Petitioner and on a close scrutiny of the



documents annexed to the writ application, this Court found substance in the argument of the learned counsel for the Petitioner.

7. On the request of the learned counsel for the State, he is granted two weeks' time to obtain instruction in the matter.

8. List this matter in the week commencing 09.02.2026.

I.A. No.1639 of 2026

9. As an interim, it is directed that the impugned order dated 15.01.2026 at Annexure-1 shall not be given effect to till the next date.

Urgent certified copy of this order be granted on proper application.

(A.K. Mohapatra)
Judge

Sisir