



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

W.P.(C) No. 23512 of 2025

Prabir Kumar Das

....

Petitioner

In Person

-versus-

State of Odisha and another

....

Opposite Parties

Mr. Saswat Das, Additional Government Advocate

CORAM:

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

AND

HON'BLE MR JUSTICE MURAHARI SRI RAMAN

Order No.

ORDER
25.03.2026

01. **1.** The instant writ petition in the nature of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) flags an issue concerning the Odia University, established under the Odia University Act, 2017 in not filling up the sanctioned posts, which includes the post of Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors remained vacant since long. It is also pleaded in the instant Public Interest Litigation that the said issue was raised in the Odisha Legislative Assembly but despite an assurance having given, the reality is a far cry.



2. It is submitted by Mr. Prabir Kumar Das, the petitioner, who appears in person that because of the vacancy in the teaching posts, the students of the universities are deprived of their fundamental right to education and if the quality education is not imparted to them, it will not only affect the pupils but also impede the development of the nation.

3. We appreciate the agony and anguish shown by the petitioner in this regard, as no reluctance can be shown in deficiency of the quality education to be imparted to the future generation of the country. In a competitive world, the quality education is inevitable and it is a Constitutional duty of the State to ensure seamless imparting of quality education to its citizenry.

4. Mr. Saswat Das, learned Additional Government Advocate (AGA) appearing on behalf of the opposite parties-State submits on instruction received over the telephone that the Search Committee was constituted for appointing the Vice-Chancellor of the said university, which is lying vacant since long. He further submits that the recommendation of the Search Committee is being sent to the Chancellor for taking a decision, which according to him, would be



taken in a short while. He also submits that the Vice-Chancellor is conferred the power to fill up the vacancies of the Professors, Associate Professors and the Assistant Professors in terms of the first statute as well as the other statute applicable in this regard and assures this Court that in the event the Vice-Chancellor is appointed, the process for filling up of the said vacancy would immediately be ensured by the newly appointed Vice-Chancellor. However, he prays for an accommodation with a prayer to file an affidavit disclosing the facts as narrated herein above.

5. On the prayer made by Mr. Das, learned AGA, list this matter on 22nd April, 2026.

6. Let the affidavit be filed by the State within two weeks from date.

(Harish Tandon)
Chief Justice

(M.S. Raman)
Judge

S. Behera