



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK
W.P.(C) NO. 35220 OF 2025

Ranjan Kumar Sahoo

.... ***Petitioner***

Ms. Deepali Mahapatra, Advocate

-versus-

State of Odisha and others

.... ***Opposite Parties***

Mr. Sibanarayan Biswal,

Additional Standing Counsel

Mr. A. K. Nath, Counsel for Endowments

CORAM:

JUSTICE K.R. MOHAPATRA

JUSTICE SAVITRI RATHO

ORDER

11.12.2025

Order No.

01. 1. This matter is taken up through hybrid mode.
2. Ms. Mahapatra, learned counsel for the Petitioner submits that the trust board has been appointed as per Clause-3 of the Scheme which was framed vide order No. 541 dated 10th May, 1972 in O.A. No. 03 of 1972 under Section 42 of the Orissa Hindu Religious Endowments Act, 1951. It is submitted that the scheme was framed prior to the amendment of Section 42. The amendment to Section 42 requiring prior approval of the State Government, was incorporated vide Odisha Gazette Notification No. 2064 dated 9th November, 2018. Thus, before appointing a trust board in terms of the scheme, the Additional Assistant Commissioner of Endowments, Cuttack should have taken prior approval of the State Government. That having not been done the appointment of the trust board is not legal and is unsustainable.



3. It is submitted by Ms. Mahapatra, learned counsel for the Petitioner that charge of the Management of Shri Laxmi Nrusingha Mahaprabhu, Bije- Purbakachha in the District of Cuttack has not yet been handed over to the newly constituted trust board under Annexure-1. She, therefore, prays that till approval of the State Government is obtained, the trust board should not be allowed to manage the affairs of the aforesaid religious institution.

4. In view of submission made by Ms. Mahapatra, learned counsel for the Petitioner, this Court feels that the matter requires consideration.

5. Hence, issue notice.

6. No requisites need be filed for issuance of notice to any of the Opposite Parties, as Mr. Biswal, learned Additional Standing Counsel accepts notice on behalf of Opposite Party No. 1 and Mr. Nath, learned counsel accepts notice on behalf of Opposite Party No.2 and 3.

7. Mr. Nath, learned counsel representing Additional Assistant Commissioner of Endowments, Cuttack prays for an adjournment to take instruction in the matter.

8. An extra copy of the brief shall be served on Mr. Nath, learned counsel for Commissioner of Endowments by 15th December, 2025.

9. Put up this matter on 5th February, 2026.

10. Counter affidavit, if any, shall be filed in the meantime serving copy thereof on learned counsel for the Petitioner and



exchanging copies thereof between learned counsel for the Opposite Parties.

(K.R. Mohapatra)
Judge

(Savitri Ratho)
Judge

02. I.A. No. 21665 of 2025

1. Notice as above.
2. As an interim measure, it is directed that there shall be stay of operation of order dated 10th October, 2025 passed by the learned Additional Assistant Commissioner of Endowments, Cuttack in constituting a trust board of Shri Laxmi Nrusingha Mahaprabhu, Bije- Purbakachha, Cuttack till next date.

(K.R. Mohapatra)
Judge

(Savitri Ratho)
Judge

Subhalaxmi