IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK
W.P.(C) No.24260 of 2026
WITH
W.P.(C) No.25815 of 2026

In W.P.(C) No.24260 of 2026
CNR No. ODHC010578442026

Sandhya Rani Naik .... ***Petitioner***
Mr. G. Mukherjee, Sr. Advocate

-versus-

State of Odisha & Ors. .... ***Opposite Parties***
Ms. B. Dash, ASC

In W.P.(C) No.25815 of 2026
CNR No. ODHC010618302026

Bindurekha Nanda .... ***Petitioner***
Mr. P. K. Rath, Sr. Advocate

-versus-

State of Odisha & Ors. .... ***Opposite Parties***
Ms. B. Dash, ASC

CORAM:
HON'BLE THE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE G. SATAPATHY

ORDER
25.11.2026

Order No.

02. 1. These matters are taken up through hybrid mode.

2. Heard Mr. G. Mukherjee, learned senior counsel and Mr. P. K. Rath, learned senior counsel appearing for the Petitioners and Ms. B. Dash, learned counsel for the State.

3. Both the Writ Petitions involve the same issue regarding opening of an IMFL OFF shop at Panasa Gram Panchayat in the district of Jajpur. The Petitioner in W.P. (C) No.24260 of 2026 has raised an objection for opening of IMFL OFF shop at Panasa Gram Panchayat, whereas the Petitioner in W.P.(C) No.25815 of 2026 being a Licensee of IMFL shop at Ankula has prayed for grant of adequate police protection to facilitate the opening and smooth functioning of the said IMFL shop.

4. It is admitted that a license has been granted in favour of the Petitioner in W.P.(C) No.25815 of 2026 on 13.07.2026 and as per the Petitioner, the said IMFL shop has not yet been opened till date.

5. It is submitted by Mr. Mukherjee, learned senior counsel for the Petitioner in W.P.(C) No.24260 of 2026, that the objection to grant of license was not considered in accordance with the statutory provisions before opening of the IMFL shop. It is further submitted that the Sarapanch of Panasa Gram Panchayat had submitted her objection on 17.01.2026 and as per the admission made by the Authorities in the

counter affidavit, the same was also received on 17.01.2026. Therefore, it became imperative for the Authorities to consider the objection in terms of the Odisha Excise Rules, 2017 (in short, "the 2017 Rules") and the prevalent Excise Policy. Rules 31 to 33 of the 2017 Rules prescribe the requirement for consideration of the objection with the enquiry.

6. Since it is borne out from the record that no such consideration as per the statutory provisions has been accorded to the objection of the Sarapanch dated 17.01.2026, we are inclined to permit the Authorities to comply with all such statutory requirements.

7. Accordingly, both the Writ Petitions are disposed of with a direction to the Collector-cum-District Magistrate, Jajpur (Opposite Party No.4) to consider the objection of the Sarapanch of Panasa Gram Panchayat dated 17.01.2026 (Annexure-2 of W.P.(C) No.24260 of 2026) in accordance with law within a period of fifteen days from the date of receipt of certified copy of this order along with copies of the Writ Petitions.

8. It is made clear that so far as the prayer of the Licensee regarding police protection is concerned, she is at liberty to approach the

appropriate Authority for redressal of her grievance, subject to consideration of the objections as stated above.

9. Urgent certified copy of this order shall be issued on proper application.

(B.P. Routray)
Acting Chief Justice

(G. Satapathy)
Judge

Manoj/Priyanka

Signature Not Verified
Digitally Signed
Signed by: MANOJ ROUT K
Reason: Authentication
Location: ORISSA HIGH COURT
Date: 26-Nov-2026 15:53:59