IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

W.P.(C) No.34887 of 2026

CNR No.ODHC010831352026

Narasingh Tripathy and others .... ***Petitioners***

Mr. D.R. Mohapatra, Advocate

-versus-

State of Odisha and others .... ***Opposite Parties***

Mr. R. Pradhan, ASC
(For OP Nos.1 to 6)

CORAM: JUSTICE SANJAY KUMAR MISHRA

ORDER

Order No. **27.10.2026**

01. This matter is taken up through hybrid mode.

2. Heard Mr. Mohapatra, learned Counsel for the Petitioners, so also Mr. Pradhan, learned ASC, who accepts notice on behalf of Opposite Party Nos.1 to 6 and admits to have received copy of the brief.

3. The Petitioners, who claim themselves to be the elected President, Assistant Secretary and Secretary, Athletic Association of Students' Union respectively have preferred the present writ petition, being aggrieved by the notice dated 16.10.2026 issued by the Principal, R.C.M. Science College, Khallikote, Ganjam (Opposite Party No.7), vide which the oath taking ceremony of the Students' Union Office Bearers was postponed until further order on

the ground of alleged rising tension and anticipation of untoward incident.

4. Mr. Mohapatra, learned Counsel for the Petitioners, drawing attention of this Court to the Government of Odisha, Higher Education Department notification dated 05.10.2026, as at Annexure-2 submits, as per the said notification, the oath taking ceremony and the reserved day (Presidential Holiday) should have been held on 16.10.2026. However, the Opposite Party No.7 has acted contrary to the said guidelines thereby compelling the Petitioners to approach this Court in form of the present writ petition.

5. Per contra, learned Counsel for the State, drawing attention of this Court to Clause-i under the heading "Grievance Redressal Mechanism" of the notification dated 05.10.2026 submits, since there is an alternative remedy in terms of the said circular of the Government, the Petitioners ought to have approached the Grievance Redressal Cell of the said college for redressal of their grievances. For ready reference, the said clause is reproduce below:

> *"**i.** There should be a Grievances Redressal Cell with the Dean (Student Welfare)/Teacher in charge of student affairs as its chairman. In addition, one senior faculty member, one senior administrative officer and two final year students - one boy and one girl (students can be nominated on the basis of merit and/or participation in the co-curricular activities in the previous year). The grievance cell shall be mandated with the redressal of*

election-related grievances, including, but not limited to breaches of the code of conduct of elections and complaints relating to election-related expenditure. This cell would be the regular unit of institution."

(Emphasis supplied)

6. In view of the submissions made by learned Counsel for the parties and to avoid further delay, the writ petition is disposed of at the stage of admission, granting liberty to the Petitioners to file a grievance petition before the Chairman, Grievance Redressal Cell, R.C.M. Science College, Khallikote, Ganjam within a week hence, along with the certified copy of this order.

7. It is made clear that, in the event such a grievance petition is filed, the Chairman, Grievance Redressal Cell, R.C.M. Science College, Khallikote, Ganjam shall do well to consider and dispose of the same within the timeline prescribed vide Circular dated 05.10.2026 issued by the Government of Odisha, Higher Education Department, and communicate the outcome thereof to the Petitioners forthwith, particularly Petitioner No.1, who claims to be the elected President of the Students' Union of R.C.M. Science College, Khallikote, Ganjam.

8. It is made further clear that the Principal, R.C.M. Science College, Khallikote, Ganjam, against whom allegation has been made in the writ petition for acting contrary to the circular dated 05.10.2026, shall also do well to act in accordance with the said Circular.

9. Office is directed to communicate a copy of this order urgently to the Principal, R.C.M. Science College, Khallikote, Ganjam for his information and necessary action.

10. Urgent certified copy of this order be granted on proper application as per rules.

(S.K. MISHRA)
JUDGE

Anisha

Signature Not Verified
Digitally Signed
Signed by: ANISHA NANDA
Designation: Jr. Stenographer
Reason: Authentication
Location: OHC, CUTTACK
Date: 28-Oct-2026 14:20:19