IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

W.P.(C) No.34913 of 2026

CNR No. ODHC010834112026

Jyoti Maharana .... ***Petitioner***

Ms. S.J. Biswal, Advocate

-versus-

The Principal, R.C.M. Science College, Khallikote, Ganjam & others. .... ***Opposite Parties***

Mr. Jugala Kishore Panda, Adv.
(For O.P. Nos.1 & 3)
Mr. Dipti Ranjan Mohapatra, Adv.
(For O. P. No.4)

CORAM: JUSTICE SANJAY KUMAR MISHRA

ORDER
30.10.2026

Order No.
02. This matter is taken up through hybrid mode.

2. The present writ petition has been preferred with the following prayers:-

> *"**Prayer***
>
> *In view of the facts and circumstances stated above, it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Court may graciously be pleased to:*
>
> *1. Issue a writ, order or direction quashing the election results for the post of President published on 15.10.2026 (Annexure-7);*
>
> *2. Issue a writ, order or direction for re-conducting of the election for the post of President;*
>
> *OR*
>
> *3. Issue a writ order or direction commanding the Opposite Parties to conduct a recounting of the votes polled for the post of President in the presence of the Petitioner*

and her counting agents, under the supervision of an independent officer;

AND/OR

4. ***Direct the Opposite Parties to consider and decide the Petitioner's Complaint No. 724 (Annexure-8) and her representation dated 16.10.2026 afresh (Annexure-10), after affording her an opportunity of hearing and strictly in accordance with Point 5 of the Guidelines contained in Annexure-3, within such time as this Hon'ble Court may fix****;*

5. Pass any other order or direction as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.

And for this act of kindness, the Petitioner shall, as in duty bound, ever pray.

(Emphasis supplied)

3. The Opposite Party Nos.1 & 3, so also private Opposite Party No.4, who is the elected President of RCM Science College, Khallikote, have rendered appearance by filing their respective Vakalatnama. The same are taken on record.

4. Mr. Panda, learned Counsel for the Opposite Party Nos.1 & 3 files a website copy of the order dated 27.10.2026 passed by this Court in WP(C) No.34887 of 2026 and submits, the elected President, along with other Elected Office Bearers preferred the said writ petition, which was disposed of vide order dated 27.10.2026, permitting them to file a grievance petition before the Chairman, Grievance Redressal Cell, R.C.M. Science College, Khallikote. Being so permitted, they have already submitted a grievance petition yesterday, which is pending for consideration. The said website copy is taken on record.

5. Mr. Panda, learned Counsel further submits, as per

the Guidelines dated 05.10.2026 of the Government of Odisha, Higher Education Department, the Petitioner ought to have preferred grievance petition before the Chairman, Grievance Redressal Cell.

6. However, instead of doing so, she preferred a grievance petition before the Principal, R.C.M. Science College, Khallikote, Ganjam (Opposite Party No.1). Though the same was dealt with by the Grievance Redressal Cell, who are signatories to the impugned communication date 15.10.2026, the Principal communicated the same to the Petitioner.

7. Being aggrieved by such communication, she has preferred an appeal before the Principal, R.C.M. Science College, Khallikote, Ganjam, as at Annexure-10, which is pending for consideration. He further submits, he has no objection if the alternative prayer made in the writ petition, seeking a direction to the Opposite Party to consider and decide the Petitioner's representation/ appeal dated 16.10.2026 (Annexure 10), is allowed.

8. At this stage, learned Counsel for the Petitioner submits, since the Principal, R.C.M. Science College, Khallikote, Ganjam is one of the signatory to the impugned communication dated 15.10.2026, against which her client has preferred an appeal vide Annexure-10, the Principal is incompetent to deal with the said appeal. Hence, being remediless, her client has preferred the present writ petition.

9. Per contra, Mr. Panda, learned Counsel appearing for the College Management, submits that there is no such averment in the so-called appeal stated to be pending

before the Principal, R.C.M. Science College, Khallikote. Rather, the Petitioner submitted a grievance petition before the Principal, R.C.M. Science College, Khallikote, Ganjam, which was duly dealt with and disposed of by the Grievance Redressal Cell, and the decision thereon was communicated to the Petitioner by the Principal.

10. In view of the submissions made by learned Counsel for the parties, it is made clear that merely because the Principal has signed the aforesaid communication, there shall be no impediment for him to deal with and dispose of the representation/appeal preferred by the Petitioner, strictly in accordance with the Guidelines dated 05.10.2026 of the Government of Odisha, Higher Education Department, governing the Grievance Redressal Cell mechanism, after affording due opportunity of hearing to the Petitioner.

11. Accordingly, the Principal, R.C.M. Science College, Khallikote, Ganjam, being the head of the Institution and appellate authority to deal with the said appeal, is directed do well to consider and dispose of the appeal dated 16.10.2026 strictly in accordance with the aforesaid Guidelines, and pass a reasoned order, within a period of ten days from the date of production of a certified copy of this order, which shall be produced at the earliest, preferably, by 4th November, 2026.

12. It is made clear that, while dealing with and disposing of the said Appeal, opportunity of hearing be given to the Petitioner. Till such consideration and disposal of Appeal, the interim order passed on 23.10.2026 shall remain in force.

13. Accordingly, the writ petition, as well as I.A. No.20757 of 2026 stand disposed of.

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

(S.K. MISHRA)
JUDGE

Mona

Signature Not Verified
Digitally Signed
Signed by: MONALISA SWAIN
Reason: Authentication
Location: OHC
Date: 31-Oct-2026 16:16:06