

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (C) No(s). 17403/2023

[Arising out of impugned judgment and order dated 28-06-2023 in WPA(P) No. 272/2023 passed by the High Court at Calcutta]

THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

DR. SANAT KUMAR GHOSH & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 248251/2023 - APPLICATION FOR MODIFICATION OF PARTY DETAILS / CHALLENGED JUDGEMENT DETAILS, IA No. 42979/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 183555/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 248307/2023 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 5484/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 284901/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 205750/2023 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 90345/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 227841/2024 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION, IA No. 170406/2023 - DISCHARGE OF ADVOCATE ON RECORD, IA No. 156480/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT, IA No. 189570/2023 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 165408/2023 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 165328/2023 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 247100/2023 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 224771/2023 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 284709/2024 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 205787/2023 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 141578/2024 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 198176/2023 - MODIFICATION OF COURT ORDER, IA No. 188065/2023 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES, IA No. 156479/2023 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES and IA No. 287574/2024 - PERMISSION TO FILE APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION)

Date : 16-01-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

For Petitioner(s) : Mr. Jaideep Gupta, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Debanjan Mandal, Adv.
Mr. Kunal Mimani, AOR
Mr. Prashant Alai, Adv.
Ms. Mahima Cholera, Adv.
Ms. Abhinav Rana, Adv.

For Respondent(s) : Mr. R. Venkataramani, Attorney General
Mr. Joydeep Mazumdar, Adv.
Mr. Kartikay Agarwal, Adv.

Mr. Prabhat Sil, Adv.
Mr. Debojyoti Bhattacharya, Adv.
Mr. Chitvan Singhal, Adv.
Mr. Nishchayi Sharma, Adv.
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Mr. Vishal Agrawal, Adv.
Ms. Astha Singh, Adv.

Mr. Anand Varma, AOR

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Ms. Gargy Basu, Adv.
Ms. Manisha Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Suraj Kumar Singh, Adv.
Mr. Reegan S Bell, Adv.
Mr. Rakesh Kumar Tiwari, Adv.

Mr. Soumya Dutta, AOR

Mr. Kunal Chatterji, AOR
Ms. Maitrayee Banerjee, Adv.
Mr. Rohit Bansal, Adv.
Mr. Varij Nayan Mishra, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

1. The matter pertains to the appointment of Vice-Chancellors in

36 State Universities in the State of West Bengal. With the intervention of this Court and on the recommendations made by the Search-cum-Selection Committee headed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Uday U. Lalit, Former Chief Justice of India, the issues re: appointments of these Vice-Chancellors have been resolved in phases. As of now, only 11 Universities remain where permanent Vice-Chancellors are yet to be appointed.

2. Today, Mr. Jaideep Gupta, learned Senior Counsel representing the State of West Bengal, as well as the learned Attorney General for India representing the learned Chancellor, have handed over a note in which both sides have graciously agreed to the appointment of the following eight Vice-Chancellors:

Sl. No.	Name of University	Name of Vice-Chancellor
1	Sanskrit College & University	Ayan Bhattacharya
2	Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University	Sanchari Roy Mukherjee
3	Harichand Guruchand University	Nimai Chandra Saha
4	Raiganj University	Arnab Sen
5	Diamond Harbour Women's University	Mita Banerjee
6	Baba Saheb Ambedkar Education University	Arunasis Goswami
7	Uttar Banga Krishi Vishwavidyalay University	Debabrata Basu
8	West Bengal State University	Debabrata Mitra

3. In view of the consensus emerged between the parties, we request the Hon'ble Chief Minister of the State of West Bengal to forward the above names to the learned Chancellor for issuance of the notification of their appointments.

4. This would leave us with the following three Universities:

Sl. No.	Name of University
1	North Bengal University
2	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology
3	Netaji Subhash Open University

5. It seems that the parties have some divergent opinions concerning the recommendations or *inter-se* merit of the candidates recommended for these three Universities. However, and as agreed to by both sides, the matter of appointment of Vice-Chancellors in these three Universities is again forwarded to Hon'ble Mr. Justice U. U. Lalit, Former Chief Justice of India, who in turn, is requested to thoroughly examine all the materials that may be supplied to him by the parties. Upon consideration of the materials by the Search-cum-Selection Committee headed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice U. U. Lalit, we leave it to the discretion of that Committee to (i) recommend a fresh panel from among the existing candidates; or (ii) initiate a fresh selection process.

6. In this regard, however, we do not express any opinion. We request the Search-cum-Selection Committee headed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice U. U. Lalit to make an endeavour to take an appropriate decision within a period of four weeks.

7. We place on record our appreciation for Mr. Jaideep Gupta, learned senior counsel representing the State of West Bengal and the learned Attorney General for India representing the learned Chancellor, as without their intervention, persuasion, and

dedicated efforts towards ensuring that heads of academic institutions are duly appointed, this complex issue could not have been easily resolved.

8. With these developments based upon the amicable considerations, all the previous orders stand suitably modified.

9. List on 27.02.2026.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI T.C.)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR