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WA-863-2026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MADHYA PRADESH
AT JABALPUR

BEFORE

HON'BLE SHRI JUSTICE SANJEEV SACHDEVA,
CHIEF JUSTICE

&

HON'BLE SHRI JUSTICE VINAY SARAF

ON THE 20th OF MARCH, 2026

WRIT APPEAL No. 863 of 2026

NEERAJ ANAND LIKHAR

Versus

THE STATE OF MADHYA PRADESH AND OTHERS

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Appearance:

Shri Aaradhy Shrivastava - Advocate for the appellant.

Shri Vivek Sharma - Deputy Advocate General for respondent nos.1 to 4 and 6 to 8/State.

Shri Ashok Lalwani - Senior Advocate with Shri Kapil Sharma - Advocate for the respondent no.5.
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ORDER

Per. Hon'ble Shri Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva, Chief Justice

Appellant impugns order dated 12.03.2026 primarily on the ground that the appellant in the writ petition was party as respondent no.7, the impugned order was passed adverse to the appellant even without notice to him. He submits that the order was passed on the very first date, when the petition was listed.

Issue notice.

Notice is accepted by learned counsel appearing for the respondent nos.1 to 4, 6 to 8 as also by counsel for respondent no.5(the writ petitioner).

Learned Senior counsel appearing for the respondent no.5/the writ petitioner submits that the order is an innocuous order and merely directs an inquiry into the caste certificate of the appellant. He submits that the appellant



belongs to the same caste as his brother, whose certificate has been cancelled after due verification by the High Level Caste Scrutiny Committee. He, however, very fairly states that prior to passing of the impugned order, notice was not issued and the impugned order was passed on the very first date.

Without commenting on the merits of the case, since admittedly the writ petition was disposed of and an adverse order passed against the appellant without notice to the appellant, we are of the view that principles of natural justice have been violated in the present case and accordingly, on that limited ground, set aside the impugned order dated 12.03.2026 and remit the matter to the writ court.

In view of the above, the impugned order is set aside on the limited ground of breach of principles of natural justice. Matter is remitted to the writ court.

Keeping in view the peculiar facts and circumstances of the case, list the writ petition before the writ court for consideration on 25.03.2026.

Appellant shall file a reply to the writ petition before the said date of hearing. The writ court is requested to expeditiously consider the petition and dispose of the same as expeditiously as possible.

It is clarified that this Court has neither considered nor commented on the merits of the contentions of either party. All rights and contentions of the parties are reserved.

(SANJEEV SACHDEVA)
CHIEF JUSTICE

(VINAY SARAF)
JUDGE

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