



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

CONTC No. 231 of 2025

Lalit Mohan Rath

.....

Petitioner

Mr. B. Das, Advocate

-Versus-

Arvind Agrawal, IAS and Others

....

Opp. Parties

Mr. A.R. Dash, AGA

CORAM:

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SASHIKANTA MISHRA

ORDER

11.02.2026

Order No.

05.

1. This matter is taken up through hybrid mode.
2. On the last occasion, this Court, inter alia, passed the following order;

“4. The Opposite Party-Contemnors do not appear to have considered the matter seriously at all. This Court therefore, directs the Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Department of Higher Education to appear in person before this Court and file a compliance affidavit. It is made clear that if the order is complied with, he need not appear.”

Today when the matter is called out, Mr. A.R. Dash, learned Addl. Government Advocate informs that the Secretary could not appear because of a pre-fixed programme at Delhi. In this connection, an I.A. is said to have been e-filed, which is not on record. Mr. Dash however produced copy of the I.A., which this Court has perused. As regards the writ appeal, it is submitted that no order of stay has yet been passed.

3. As it appears, the concerned authorities have paid scant regard to the order passed by this Court. Neither the order is complied with nor the Secretary of the Department appeared. It is submitted that the writ appeal is to be listed on 16th February, 2026 before the concerned



Division Bench.

4. Such being the case, list this matter on 18th February, 2026 for personal appearance of the Secretary, Department of Higher Education before this Court and for filing of affidavit of compliance, in case no order of stay is passed in the writ appeal. In case, the order is complied with at least provisionally by the next date, the Secretary need not appear.

A.K. Rana

(Sashikanta Mishra)
Judge