



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

CONTC No. 2782 of 2025

Sarat Kumar Panda

..... *Petitioner(s)*

Mr. Sidheswar Mallik, Adv.

-Versus-

Ms. Aswathy S.

Principal Secretary to Government of

Odisha & Anr.

..... *Opposite Party/Contemnor(s)*

Ms. Sarita Moharana, ASC

Mr. Bibekananda Nayak, Adv.

(for O.P.2)

CORAM:

DR. JUSTICE SANJEEB K PANIGRAHI

ORDER

17.03.2026

Order No.

05.

1. This matter is taken up through hybrid arrangement.
2. The Petitioner had earlier approached this Court by filing W.P.(C) No.13507 of 2018 seeking appropriate relief against the Opposite Parties in respect of the grievances raised therein. After hearing the parties and considering the materials on record, this Court disposed of the said writ petition vide order dated 05.08.2024, directing the Opposite Parties to take appropriate action in accordance with law within the stipulated period. However, despite the clear and unambiguous direction issued by this Court, the Opposite Parties have failed to comply with the said order within the time stipulated therein. The Petitioner, in good



faith and with legitimate expectation of compliance, waited for a reasonable period for implementation of the aforesaid order. However, the Opposite Parties have neither complied with the directions of this Court nor did it take any steps for implementation of the same or filed any appeal before the appellate forum challenging the order passed by this Court in the aforesaid Writ Petition.

3. The inaction and deliberate failure on the part of the Opposite Parties clearly demonstrate a willful disobedience of the order passed by this Court, thereby undermining the authority and majesty of law.
4. In the aforesaid circumstances, the Petitioner has been constrained to approach this Court by filing the present Contempt Petition seeking initiation of contempt proceedings against the Opposite Parties for willful and deliberate violation of the order dated 05.08.2024 passed in W.P.(C) No.13507 of 2018. Pursuant to the order dated 13.01.2026 passed by this Court in the present proceeding, the Director of Acharya Harihar Post Graduate Institute of Cancer (formerly known as Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer Centre), Cuttack, who has been arrayed as Opposite Party No.2, is present before this Court today.
5. Heard learned counsel for the parties. Learned counsel appearing for the Opposite Party No.2/Contemnor submits that the



Contemnor(s) have preferred an intra-court appeal on 03.09.2025 before the Division Bench of this Court challenging the order dated 05.08.2024 passed in W.P.(C) No.13507 of 2018, and the said appeal is stated to be pending for consideration. Having heard learned counsel for the parties, this Court is of the view that since the order was passed by this Court on 5.08.2024 and the Opposite Parties/Contemnors stated to have preferred Writ Appeal after more than one year, which shows that the Contemnors do not have any respect to the Court which automatically amounts to contempt. Further, the Contemnors have not obtained any stay order from the Appellate Court. Hence, the Opposite Party No.2/Contemnor is directed to comply the order dated 05.08.2024 passed by this Court in W.P.(C) No.13507 of 2018 by 31st March, 2026 failing which, this Court shall be constrained to direct the Commissioner of Police, Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Commissionerate to affect the punishment of office arrest of the contemnor at their respective offices.

6. List this matter on 31st March, 2026.
7. Personal appearance of the Opposite Party No.2/Contemnor is dispensed with for today.

(Dr. Sanjeeb K Panigrahi)
Judge