



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

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COCP-4478-2025

Date of Decision: 04.09.2025

Maya Devi

.....Petitioner

Vs.

Kailash Chand

.....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE SUDEEPTI SHARMA

Present: Mr. Gourav Verma, Advocate
for the petitioner.

SUDEEPTI SHARMA J. (Oral)

1. The present contempt petition has been filed alleging willful and deliberate disobedience of the order dated 23.04.2018 passed by this Court in FAO-2355-2017.
2. The order dated 23.04.2018 was passed on an application under Section 24 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, granting maintenance pendente lite during the pendency of FAO-2355-2017.
3. It is an admitted position that FAO-2355-2017 has been finally decided by this Court on 08.07.2025. Once the main appeal itself stood disposed of, the interim order dated 23.04.2018 automatically merged into the final judgment. It is well settled that interim directions operate only during the pendency of the main proceedings and lose their independent existence once the lis is finally decided.



4. The doctrine of merger postulates that upon pronouncement of a final judgment, all interim orders merge therein and have no separate enforceability. Consequently, as on date, no subsisting disobedience of the order dated 23.04.2018 survives for examination in contempt jurisdiction.

5. Further, when this Court decided FAO-2355-2017 on 08.07.2025, the petitioner was duly represented but did not bring to the notice of Court, any alleged non-compliance of the interim order dated 23.04.2018. Once the matter was adjudicated on merits, it is not open to the petitioner to resurrect an interim order for the purposes of contempt, particularly when no such grievance was urged at the stage of final disposal.

6. It is trite law that the contempt jurisdiction cannot be invoked to indirectly reopen or prolong matters already concluded.

7. In view of the above discussion, this Court finds that the order dated 23.04.2018 having merged into and spent its force with the final judgment dated 08.07.2025, the present contempt petition is not maintainable and is accordingly dismissed.

(SUDEEPTI SHARMA)
JUDGE

September 04th 2025

Sahil

Whether speaking/non-speaking : Yes/No

Whether reportable : Yes/No