

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

COC-1698-2026 (O&M)

Date of Decision: May 20, 2026

Tarun Verma

.....Petitioner

Vs.

Anurag Rastogi, IAS & ors.

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE SUDEEPTI SHARMA

Present: Mr. Anshul Jain, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Sharad Aggarwal, Advocate
for respondent No. 3 to 5.

SUDEEPTI SHARMA J. (Oral)

1. Mr. Sharad Aggarwal, Advocate, puts in appearance and filed his Memorandum of appearance on behalf of respondent Nos. 3 to 5. The same is taken on record.

2. The present contempt petition has been filed for non-compliance of order dated 08.01.2026 passed by Co-ordinate Bench of this Court in CWP-39421-2025 whereby without commenting upon the merits of the case, the petition was disposed of with a direction to competent authority to consider and decide the representation dated 01.10.2025 by passing a speaking order, after affording due opportunity of hearing to all the concerned parties.

3. Learned counsel for the respondent contends that after considering the representation of the petitioner, order dated 06.03.2026 has already been passed, which is placed on record in the present petition as Annexure P-4.

4. Despite the fact that order dated 08.01.2026 passed by Co-ordinate Bench of this Court in CWP-39421-2025 has already been complied with and having due knowledge of the legal position, the petitioner chose to file present



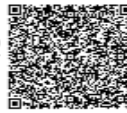
contempt proceedings and continued to pursue the same without any justifiable or tenable grounds of law. Such conduct amounts to a gross abuse of the process of law and unnecessarily adds to the burgeoning pendency of cases before this Court.

5. It is well settled that contempt jurisdiction is required to be exercised with great caution and circumspection and only in cases where wilful and intentional disobedience of an order of the Court is clearly made out. The jurisdiction cannot be invoked to settle scores or to unnecessarily harass officials, particularly when the record reflects compliance with the directions issued by this Court.

6. Similar matter has already been dealt with by this Court in **COCP-3579-2025** decided on 24.07.2025 titled as “**Payal Chaudhary V/s KAP Sinha IAS and others**”, while placing reliance on the judgments passed by Hon’ble Supreme Court in case titled as “**Dalip Singh V/s State of Uttar Pradesh and others (2010) 2 SCC 114, Subrata Roy Sahara V/s Union of India (2014) 8 SCC 470 and K.C. Tharakan V/s State Bank of India & Ors. Passed in Writ Petition (Civil) Diary No(s).27458/2022**”. The relevant paragraphs of **Payal Chaudhary (supra)** are reproduced as under:-

“9. It is evident that the petitioner has engaged in what can only be described as a frivolous and vexatious litigation spree, seemingly driven by a misplaced sense of grievance. Such conduct constitutes a gross abuse of the judicial process and contributes significantly to the burgeoning pendency of cases before this Court. The tendency of litigants to misuse the judicial forum by engaging in forum shopping, filing repetitive and meritless petitions, and adopting dilatory tactics undermines the very foundation of our legal system and clogs the administration of justice.

10. The Hon’ble Supreme Court, in **Dalip Singh Vs. State of Uttar Pradesh and others (2010) 2 SCC 114**, has cautioned against this emerging category of unscrupulous litigants who, devoid of respect for truth, resort to falsehood and unethical practices in their pursuit of relief. The Supreme Court emphatically held that such litigants, who seek to pollute the stream of justice or who dare to touch the fountain of justice



with unclean hands, are not entitled to any relief, interim or final. Relevant extracts of the same is reproduce as under:-

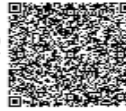
“In the last 40 years, a new creed of litigants has cropped up. Those who belong to this creed do not have any respect for truth. They shamelessly resort to falsehood and unethical means for achieving their goals. Courts have evolved new principles to curb such abuse, and it is now well established that a litigant who attempts to pollute the stream of justice or touches the pure fountain of justice with tainted hands is not entitled to any relief, interim or final.”

11. *The petitioner’s conduct in instituting frivolous litigation has resulted in a gross misuse of the judicial process, thereby squandering the valuable time and resources of this Court. It is imperative, in the interest of justice, that bona fide and timely claims are adjudicated expeditiously, without being impeded by vexatious and unscrupulous litigation. At this juncture, reference may be made to the pertinent observations of the Hon’ble Supreme Court in **Subrata Roy Sahara v. Union of India (2014) 8 SCC 470**, wherein the Court lamented the pervasive malaise of frivolous litigation afflicting the Indian judicial system. The Hon’ble Apex Court observed as under:-*

“The Indian judicial system is grossly afflicted with frivolous litigation. Ways and means need to be evolved, to deter litigants from their compulsive obsession towards senseless and illconsidered claims. One needs to keep in mind, that in the process of litigation, there is an innocent sufferer on the other side of every irresponsible and senseless claim. He suffers long drawn anxious periods of nervousness and restlessness, whilst the litigation is pending, without any fault on his part.”

12. *The Hon’ble Supreme Court has consistently emphasized the need to deter frivolous appeals and petitions by imposing exemplary costs on the litigating parties. In Writ Petition (Civil) Diary No(s). 27458/2022 titled as **K.C. Tharakan v. State Bank of India & Ors.** decided on 01.05.2023, the Hon’ble Apex Court held as follows:*

“No legal system can permit a situation wherein a party repeatedly agitates the same issue after it has been conclusively adjudicated by the highest judicial forum. Such conduct amounts to a gross misuse of the judicial process and results in a significant waste of valuable judicial time. Accordingly, the present writ petition is dismissed with costs. However, taking into consideration that the petitioner is a dismissed employee, we deem it appropriate to impose a nominal cost. The writ petition is, therefore, dismissed with costs quantified at ₹10,000/-, to be deposited with the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Welfare Fund, to be utilized for the benefit of the SCBA Library.”



7. In view of the above referred to judgments, this Court is firmly of the opinion that the instant petition constitutes a glaring instance of misuse of the judicial process. It is, therefore, incumbent upon this Court to safeguard the sanctity of judicial proceedings and to prevent their exploitation by unscrupulous litigants. The time and resources of this Court are limited and must be reserved for *bona fide* grievances that merit judicial consideration.

8. The aforesaid judgments clearly emphasize that frivolous and vexatious litigation must be curbed with a firm hand. The repeated filing of meritless petitions not only results in wastage of precious judicial time but also causes unnecessary harassment to public officials who are constrained to defend themselves despite having acted in accordance with law.

9. Accordingly, with the objective of sending a strong deterrent message, this Court finds it appropriate to impose costs of Rs.50,000/- upon the petitioner.

10. Accordingly, the present contempt petition is **dismissed** with costs of Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only). The said amount shall be deposited by the petitioner with the Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association.

11. In the event of default in compliance, the amount shall be recovered from the petitioner as arrears of land revenue by the competent authority.

12. Pending miscellaneous applications, if any, are also disposed of.

May 20, 2026

Gaurav Arora

(SUDEEPTI SHARMA)

JUDGE

Whether speaking/non-speaking : Yes/No

Whether reportable : Yes/No