



CROCP-7-2026

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

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CROCP-7-2026

Date of decision: 05.05.2026

DR. SUMEET SOFAT**...PETITIONER****VERSUS****GUR IQBAL SINGH, PPS, ACP, CIVIL LINES, LUDHIANA****...RESPONDENT****CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JASGURPREET SINGH PURI****HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE AMARJOT BHATTI**

Present: Petitioner in person (through video conferencing).

Ms. Shruti, AAG, Punjab.

JASGURPREET SINGH PURI, J. (Oral)

1. The present is a Criminal Contempt Petition filed by the petitioner, who is appearing in person through video conferencing. He submits that he filed a Civil Contempt Petition bearing COCP No.6411 of 2025 titled as “*Dr. Sumeet Sofat vs. Insp. Dharampal & Ors.*” which is pending before the learned Single Judge. He further submits that in the aforesaid petition, an affidavit was filed by the respondent, which is a false affidavit and since an affidavit has been filed before the learned Single Judge which is false, the present petition has been filed in the nature of criminal contempt before this Court.

2. Petitioner appearing in person through video conferencing submits that the present petition is not only under the provisions of Section 15 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, but in fact it is under the provisions of Article 215 of the Constitution of India. He further submits



that this Court may take *suo moto* cognizance of the filing of aforesaid false affidavit.

3. We have heard the petitioner appearing in person through video conferencing. As per the provisions of Section 15 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, which provides for the cognizance of criminal contempt other than a contempt referred to in Section 14, whereby the Supreme Court or the High Court may take action. The relevant provision is reproduced as under:-

“Section 15. Cognizance of criminal contempt in other cases

(1) In the case of a criminal contempt, other than a contempt referred to in Section 14, the Supreme Court or the High Court may take action on its own motion or on a motion made by-

(a) the Advocate General, or

(b) any other person, with the consent in writing of the Advocate General or

(c) in relation to the High Court for the Union Territory of Delhi, such Law Officer as the Central Government may, by the notification in the Official Gazette, specify in this behalf, or any other person, with the consent in writing of such Law Officer.”

4. In view of the aforesaid, the method of taking cognizance of the criminal contempt has been specifically prescribed under Section 15 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 and therefore, a petition by a private individual cannot be filed directly before this Court unless the aforesaid methods which have been provided under Section 15 are exhausted. Therefore, this Court does not deem it fit to take cognizance of the present petition under the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 in view of the aforesaid provisions.



5. So far as the argument advanced by the petitioner that this Court may take *suo moto* cognizance under Article 215 of the Constitution of India is concerned, the same is also misconceived in view of the fact that the grievance of the petitioner is that an affidavit has been filed by the respondent in a petition which is already pending before learned Single Judge, and according to him, the affidavit filed by the respondent was a false affidavit. The petitioner has neither raised any such grievance nor moved any such application of any kind before the learned Single Judge in this regard but he has filed the present petition before this Court for taking cognizance of filing of the false affidavit, if any. Admittedly, there is no finding of the learned Single Judge with regard to the aforesaid allegations of false affidavit, and therefore, the aforesaid plea taken by the petitioner in person is also misconceived.
6. Consequently, finding no merit in present petition, the same is hereby dismissed.
7. Pending miscellaneous application(s), if any, shall also stand disposed of.

(JASGURPREET SINGH PURI)
JUDGE

(AMARJOT BHATTI)
JUDGE

05.05.2026

Sunil Devi

Whether speaking/reasoned	:	Yes/No
Whether Reportable	:	Yes/No