

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI
W. P. (Cr) (Filing) No. 4238 of 2026

Manoj Tandon	...		Petitioner
Versus			
The State of Jharkhand through the Director General of Police, Jharkhand, Ranchi & Ors.	...		Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE GAUTAM KUMAR CHOUDHARY

For the Petitioner	: M/s Ritu Kumar, Rajendra Krishna, Abhay Kr. Mishra, Siddharth Ranjan, Karamjit Singh Chhabra, Akansha Priya, Piyush Kr. Roy, Amrendra Datri, S.G. Raman, Punam Shrivastava, & Ajay Kr. Singh, Advocates
For the Respondent-State	: Mr. Sachin Kumar, AAG-II Mr. Achyut Keshav, AAG-V Mr. Achyut Keshav, AAG-V Mr. Deepankar, AC to GA-III
For the UOI	: Mr. Kumar Vaibhav, CGC
For the CBI	Mr. Prashant Pallav, ASGI

Oral Order

03 / Dated : 27.02.2026

1. Heard learned counsel for the petitioner and Mr. Dipankar, learned counsel appearing for the State.
2. It is submitted by learned counsel for the petitioner that the matter needs to be urgent listed as there is willful disobedience and non-compliance to the order passed by this Court as well as by the Trial Court for release of the vehicle of the petitioner.
3. List this case today at 11:30 am.
4. City S.P., Ranchi as well as Officer In-charge of Doranda Police Station are strictly directed to appear in person before this Court at 11:30 am.
5. In the meantime, Director General of Police, Jharkhand, Ranchi is also directed to appear before this Court through Video Conferencing at 11:30 am.

(Gautam Kumar Choudhary, J.)

Later on at 11:30 am

6. It is submitted by learned counsel for the State that the matter is to be mentioned before the Hon'ble Supreme Court by way of mentioning today at 1:00 pm to challenge the order passed by this Court on 26.02.2026 for release of vehicle in question.
7. Accordingly, this matter is adjourned to be heard at 2:15 pm.

(Gautam Kumar Choudhary, J.)

Later on at 2:15 pm

I.A. No.3287 of 2026

8. Heard learned counsel for the petitioner and Mr. Achyut Keshav, learned counsel appearing for the State on the aforesaid interlocutory application filed for initiating contempt proceeding against Ms. Deepika Prasad (Officer-in-Charge, Doranda Police Station, Ranchi and Mr. Paras Rana (Superintendent of Police/ City S.P., Ranchi) for their willful and deliberate non-compliance of the order dated 26.02.2026 passed by this Court.
9. It is submitted by learned counsel for the petitioner that the order dated **21.02.2026** passed for release of the vehicle of the petitioner bearing Registration No.JH01FW 0020 by J.M.F.C.-XIII, Ranchi in connection with Doranda P.S. Case No.51 of 2026 has not been complied with despite a specific direction passed by this Court yesterday i.e. **26.02.2026** in presence of City Superintendent of Police, Ranchi (Mr. Paras Rana).
10. For deliberate and intentional non-compliance to the order passed by this Court, the aforesaid I.A. being I.A. No.3287 of 2026 has been filed for initiating contempt proceeding against Ms. Deepika Prasad (Officer-in-Charge, Doranda Police Station, Ranchi and Mr. Paras Rana (Superintendent of Police/ City S.P., Ranchi) under Article 215 of the Constitution of India read with Sections 11 and 12 of the Contempt of Courts' Act, 1971.
11. A detailed order was passed on 26.02.2026 in I.A. No.3028 of 2026 with a direction to release the said vehicle, in the presence of City Superintendent of Police, Ranchi, the said order was pronounced and was directed to be duly communicated to the Officer-in-charge Doranda Police Station. The petitioner and other learned Advocates went to Doranda Police Station for release of the said vehicle along with the order passed by this Court, but the order for release was defied and not complied with.
12. The order had been communicated and duly handed-over by the petitioner to Ms. Deepika Prasad (Officer-in-Charge, Doranda Police Station, Ranchi, but despite this, the said vehicle has not been released.

13. It is submitted by Mr. Achyut Keshav, learned counsel appearing for the State that a Special Leave Petition has been filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court challenging the order passed by this Court on 26.02.2026 and is expected to be shortly listed.
14. Earlier at 11:30 a.m. today, it was submitted by learned counsel for the State that the Special Leave Petition against the aforementioned order passed by this Court will be mentioned for early hearing before the Hon'ble Supreme Court at 1:00 p.m. today. From prayer for further adjournment made at 2.15 p.m., it appears that mentioning for urgent hearing has not been allowed.
15. Seeking adjournment today only on the ground that a special leave petition has been filed before Hon'ble Supreme Court against the order of release of vehicle, when the Court is to close for Holi holidays i.e. about 10 days, is apparently in bad faith to stall the release of the vehicle and is nothing but a ploy to circumvent the order passed by the trial court as well as by this court.
16. It is submitted that since the order of investigation had been stayed by the Co-ordinate Bench of this Court vide order dated 19.02.2026, therefore, the investigation which was set aside by Hon'ble Supreme Court only 20.02.2026, therefore the investigation with regard to the speed of the vehicle on the basis of chip, which is installed in the Mercedes car, and necessary photographs of the tainted part could not be taken , therefore, some time for release is required.
17. After initial argument, Ms. Meenakshi Arora, learned senior counsel appearing for the State of Jharkhand through online, and on seeking instruction from the concerned officers agrees for the release of vehicle today by 4.30 pm.
18. Having considered the submissions advanced, what is the supreme irony of the matter is that this Court is dealing with the matter of release of vehicle seized on 17.02.2026 in a minor motor vehicle accident in a crowded area of Ranchi wherein rush hour at 10 O'clock, the vehicles move at a snail pace. No one was said to be even injured in the accident giving rise to case and counter case.
19. Be that as it may, the order dated 21.02.2026 passed by the Trial Court, which was a court of competent jurisdiction has been observed by the concerned breach and in defiance. This has been done when the

order has not been stayed or set aside by any court of law. There is no reason given whatsoever why that order has not been complied with. Although a revision has been filed against, but mere filing of an appeal or revision does not amount to a stay of the order impugned. Refusal to release is suggestive of personal vendetta against the Petitioner.

20. City Superintendent of Police, Ranchi and the Officer-in-charge of Doranda Police Station are before this court and undertake to release the vehicle today by 4.30 pm.
21. Under the circumstance, this Court directs the immediate release of the vehicle/car bearing Registration No. JH01FW 0020 i.e. by 4:30 pm by today itself.
22. It goes without saying that the vehicle will be released only after giving an undertaking by the petitioner that whenever the vehicle is required for investigation, it will be made available to the Investigating Officer on the order passed by the learned trial Court. A bond to that effect will be submitted by the Petitioner. There will not be any tampering with any gazette of the vehicle so as to result of loss of any evidence.

With this observation, this interlocutory application for initiating contempt proceeding is adjourned for the day.

Let a copy of this order be communicated to the City S.P., Ranchi and Sr. Superintendent of Police, Ranchi for its compliance.

(Gautam Kumar Choudhary, J.)

Sandeep/AKT
Uploaded on 27.02.2026