



Uttarakhand High Court Issued Contempt Notice

Why in News?

Recently, The [Uttarakhand high court](#) has issued a contempt notice to the **director of school education** for not following its orders to provide a **higher pay scale to lecturers and assistant teachers with 10 years of service**.

Key Points

- According to a previous order, the High Court had instructed that lecturers and assistant teachers **should receive extra increments along with selection and promotion pay scales**.
 - The **government** is still deliberating on the issue and has **not reached a final decision**.
- The lecturers who were appointed in 2011 argued that they should receive an extra increment and selection pay scale as per the **Uttarakhand Government Servant Pay Rules, 2016**, after completing ten years of service.
 - The government did grant the selection pay scale after a decade but did not provide the additional increment as expected.

Contempt of Court

- **About:**
 - Contempt of court seeks to protect judicial institutions from **motivated attacks and unwarranted criticism**, and as a legal mechanism to punish those who lower its authority.
- **Statutory Basis:**
 - When the Constitution was adopted, contempt of court was made one of the restrictions on freedom of speech and expression under [Article 19 \(2\) of the Constitution of India](#).
 - Separately, [Article 129 of the Constitution](#) conferred on [the Supreme Court](#) the **power to punish contempt of itself**. Article 215 conferred a corresponding power on the High Courts.
 - The [Contempt of Courts Act, 1971](#), gives statutory backing to the idea.
- **Kinds of Contempt of Court:**
 - **Civil Contempt:** It is the **wilful disobedience** to any judgment, decree, direction, order, [writ](#) or other process of a court or wilful breach of an undertaking given to a court.
 - **Criminal Contempt:** It is the publication of any matter or the doing of any other act which **scandalises or lowers the authority of any court**, or interferes with the due course of any judicial proceeding, or obstructs the administration of justice in any other manner.
- **Punishment:**
 - The Contempt of Court Act of 1971 punishes the guilty with imprisonment that may extend to **six months or fine of Rs 2,000 or both**.
 - It was amended in 2006 to include **“truth and good faith” as a defence**.
 - It was added that the court may impose punishments only if the act of the other person substantially interferes, or tends to interfere with the due course of justice.

