

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

CIVIL APPEAL NO _____ OF 2026

(Arising out of Special Leave Petition (Civil) No.6429 of 2026)

PARSURAM ROUT

...APPELLANT

VERSUS

BATAKRUSHNA SAHOO & ANR.

...RESPONDENTS

ORDER

Leave granted.

2. The present appeal arises out of the judgment and final order dated 17.10.2025 passed by the High Court of Orissa at Cuttack in MACA No. 250 of 2022, whereby the compensation awarded by the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal, Cuttack in Misc. Case No. 783 of 1997 came to be enhanced from Rs.51,040/- to Rs.82,000/- together with interest @ 6% per annum from the date of filing of the claim petition.

3. Heard learned counsel appearing for the parties and perused the material placed on record.

4. The factum of a motor vehicle accident dated 22.03.1997 and the injuries suffered by the claimant-appellant therein are not in dispute. Record reveals that the appellant sustained fracture injuries to the left foot along with injury to the spine and remained under treatment at C.H.C., Barchana and thereafter at S.C.B. Medical College & Hospital, Cuttack.

5. The Tribunal awarded a total compensation of Rs.51,040/- payable by the insurer along with interest @ 6% per annum from 08.09.1997, i.e., the date of filing of the claim petition. In appeal, the High Court enhanced the compensation to Rs.82,000/- while maintaining the same rate of interest. The High Court further directed payment of costs of Rs.500/- to the appellant-claimant.

6. Having considered the nature of injuries, the prolonged treatment undergone by the appellant, the medical documents brought on record, the period of pendency of the proceedings and the overall facts and circumstances of the case, we are of the considered view that the compensation awarded requires further enhancement in order to meet the ends of justice.

7. Though the Courts below declined to award compensation towards permanent disability and future loss of earnings for want of satisfactory evidence establishing nexus with the disability certificate obtained subsequently, it cannot be overlooked that the appellant had suffered serious injuries including spinal injury and fracture injuries in the accident in question.

8. Having regard to the nature of injuries suffered by the appellant, the period of treatment undergone by him, and the material placed on record, we are of the considered view that the compensation awarded by the High Court deserves further enhancement. Accordingly, taking a holistic view of the matter including the date of the accident; the disability suffered by the appellant; the age of the injured; the amount claimed in the claim petition; and the evidence led by the parties on record, we deem it appropriate to enhance the compensation by a further sum of Rs.3,00,000/- (lump sum) to the appellant, in full and final settlement of all claims arising out of the accident.

9. The aforesaid amount shall be paid by respondent No. 2 — M/s. United India Insurance Company Limited, within a period of eight weeks from the date of uploading of this order, failing which the said amount shall carry interest @ 6% per annum from the date of filing of the claim

petition, i.e., 08.09.1997, till realization.

10. The amount shall be remitted directly into the bank account of the claimant-appellant. The necessary bank account particulars shall be furnished by learned counsel for the appellant to learned counsel for the insurer within one week from today.

11. It is clarified that if any amount stands deposited in terms of the award passed by the Tribunal or as enhanced by the High Court, the same shall be released in favour of the claimant. In the absence thereof, the same shall be paid immediately.

12. The appeal is accordingly allowed in the aforesaid terms. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

.....J.
(SANJAY KAROL)

.....J.
(AUGUSTINE GEORGE MASIH)

April 01, 2026
New Delhi