



JUDICIAL ACADEMY, JHARKHAND

Tri-Monthly Newsletter

(Oct. 2025 - Dec. 2025)



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From the Desk of the Judicial Academy, Jharkhand

We are pleased to place before our readers this edition of the Tri-Monthly Newsletter of the Judicial Academy, Jharkhand, covering the period from October to December 2025. This publication reflects the Academy's sustained academic engagement and its continued endeavour to strengthen judicial capacity, institutional efficiency, and professional excellence across all levels of the justice delivery system.

During the quarter under review, the Academy organised a range of training programmes, refresher courses, and academic initiatives covering substantive and procedural law, judicial administration, and technological advancement. These included refresher programmes on Civil and Criminal Laws, a specialised programme for Commercial Courts, and targeted trainings for Ministerial Staff, High Court Assistants, and Technical Staff of the High Court and District Courts. Emphasis was placed on digital transformation and e-Courts reforms through computer skill enhancement, online trainings, and capacity-building initiatives for Advocates and Advocates' Clerks, along with programmes on digitisation, data security, and IT management. The quarter also featured in-house academic discussions on law and recent judicial trends, enabling judicial officers to engage with Supreme Court judgments and emerging jurisprudence. Additionally, thematic workshops and articles in this edition address

contemporary legal issues such as cyber-enabled crime, victim compensation, constitutional rights, and the interface between law and technology.

This newsletter encapsulates concise yet comprehensive accounts of these programmes, capturing expert insights, judicial perspectives, and practical guidance shared during the sessions. It is intended to serve not merely as a record of activities, but as a continuing resource for judicial officers, court staff, and members of the legal fraternity committed to excellence in judicial service.

We express our deep sense of gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Justice and Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Jharkhand for their constant guidance and support. We also sincerely acknowledge the valuable contributions of distinguished resource persons, senior judicial officers, academicians, and subject experts whose expertise enriched the Academy's academic initiatives.

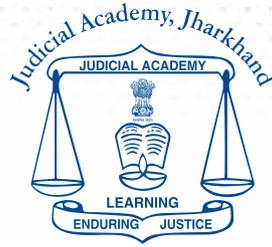
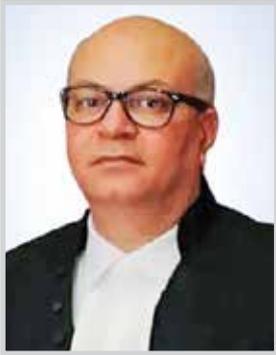
Above all, we appreciate the dedication and active participation of judicial officers, court staff, advocates, and other stakeholders, whose commitment to continuous learning remains central to strengthening the administration of justice in the State.

Happy Reading!

Judicial Academy, Jharkhand

DISCLAIMER:

- This Newsletter is intended for Private Circulation Only.
- The information contained in this newsletter is intended for information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice on any subject matter.
- The cases and content provided are for educational purposes and illustrative understanding. For a comprehensive understanding, readers are encouraged to refer to the complete case laws and official sources.
- The government schemes, sections, and rules mentioned in this newsletter are intended solely for professional understanding. For complete and authoritative information, readers are advised to refer to the relevant Bare Acts and official legal documents.



JUSTICE M.S. SONAK
The Chief Justice,
High Court of Jharkhand -cum-
Patron-in-Chief
Judicial Academy, Jharkhand

MESSAGE FROM THE PATRON-IN-CHIEF

It gives me great pleasure to note the continued progress of the Judicial Academy, Jharkhand. The Academy remains a cornerstone for promoting judicial education, professional competence, and institutional excellence.

The programmes organized during the final quarter of 2025 reflect a comprehensive strategy to strengthen our justice system. These initiatives, ranging from refresher training for Commercial Courts to capacity-building for District Judges, demonstrate a commitment to enhancing professional competence and judicial effectiveness. Our focus on digitisation and e-Courts is particularly vital for a future-ready judiciary.

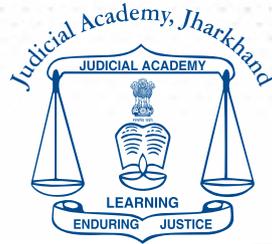
We are guided by the principle, famously championed by global pioneers of judicial reform like *Chief Justice Warren E. Burger*, that the idea of being fully equipped for one's role upon appointment or entry into service is a *fallacy*. He maintained that training and education must be a continuing process for all stakeholders in the legal system. The Academy's training and publications, including this tri-monthly newsletter, contribute significantly to knowledge sharing. These efforts, beyond merely documenting activities, serve as valuable resources to enhance the quality of justice delivery.

A well-trained judiciary is fundamental to preserving constitutional values. It is the bedrock of public confidence in the rule of law. I commend the Hon'ble Judge-in-Charge, the Director, faculty, and staff for their commitment to excellence. I also appreciate the active participation of our judicial officers, advocates, and technical personnel. Their cooperation is key to our success.

I am confident this newsletter will continue to serve as a meaningful platform for collaboration and the collective advancement of access to justice.

Warm Regards,

Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. S. Sonak



JUSTICE RONGON MUKHOPADHYAY
Judge, High Court of Jharkhand
Cum-Judge-in-Charge
Judicial Academy, Jharkhand

MESSAGE FROM THE JUDGE-IN-CHARGE

It is heartening to observe that the Judicial Academy, Jharkhand continues to uphold its commitment to continuous learning and institutional development through a well-structured calendar of academic and training programmes. The recent initiatives undertaken during October, November and December 2025 — such as refresher training programmes for Commercial Courts, intensive sessions on Civil Laws for District Judges, training programmes for ministerial and technical staff, digitisation-oriented capacity building, and e-Courts based technology trainings — reflect the Academy's integrated approach to addressing both substantive and procedural aspects of law, while strengthening efficiency in judicial administration.

Equally commendable is the Academy's emphasis on documentation and dissemination of knowledge through its regular publications, particularly the tri-monthly newsletter. This publication serves as a bridge between the Academy and the judicial fraternity, recording valuable insights, best practices, and meaningful learning experiences from across the State. Such initiatives enrich the intellectual environment and contribute significantly to professional development and institutional memory.

I extend my appreciation to the Director and the team of the Academy for their dedication, and to all participants for their keen engagement. I am confident that the Academy's sustained efforts — both in training and publication — will continue to strengthen the justice delivery system and promote a culture of excellence, learning, and innovation.

Warm Regards,

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rongon Mukhopadhyay



RAJESH SHARAN SINGH
Director,
Judicial Academy, Jharkhand

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am extremely delighted to present this edition of the Judicial Academy, Jharkhand's tri-monthly newsletter, highlighting the diverse academic and training programmes conducted during the months of October to December 2025.

This quarter witnessed a dynamic series of programmes reflecting the Academy's unwavering commitment to judicial education, institutional capacity-building, and professional excellence. The Academy organised Refresher Training Programmes for Commercial Courts and District Judges on Civil Laws, with focused deliberations on specialised adjudication, procedural efficiency, evidence appreciation, succession laws, and effective court and case management. Alongside these, several technology-driven initiatives such as e-Courts training programmes, computer skill enhancement programmes, and digitisation-focused training sessions were successfully conducted for judicial officers, advocates, advocates' clerks, and court staff across the State. Each of these programmes was designed to address contemporary challenges while strengthening the procedural and administrative foundations of judicial functioning.

I express my sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Justice and the Hon'ble Judge In-Charge for their constant guidance, encouragement, and vision, which continue to steer the Academy's endeavours. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the tireless efforts of the faculty members, administrative team, and resource persons, whose contributions ensure the success of every academic initiative.

A special note of appreciation is due to the Research Scholars of the Academy for their meticulous work in compiling, editing, and curating this edition of the newsletter. Their efforts have made this publication not only an informative record of recent activities but also a valuable reference for members of the judicial fraternity.

It is my earnest hope that this edition continues to serve as a platform for sharing insights, fostering reflection, and inspiring a culture of continuous learning and excellence within the justice delivery system.

Warm Regards,

Shri Rajesh Sharan Singh
Director
Judicial Academy, Jharkhand

OCTOBER 2025

REFRESHER TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR COMMERCIAL COURTS FOR DISTRICT JUDGES & CIVIL JUDGE (SR. DIV.) PRESIDING COMMERCIAL COURTS (COURSE NO. R-10)



The Judicial Academy Jharkhand organized a *one-day Refresher Training Programme for District Judges and Civil Judges (Senior Division) presiding over Commercial Courts* on 12th October 2025, with the objective of enhancing judicial efficiency and ensuring effective implementation of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 and allied procedural frameworks.



The programme commenced with an inaugural technical session conducted by *Sri Rajiv Shankar Dwivedi, Advocate, Supreme Court of India*. This session provided an in-depth overview of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, with focused discussion on the nature of commercial disputes arising from transactions involving bankers, merchants, financiers and traders, construction

and infrastructure contracts, immovable property used in trade, and joint venture agreements. The session clarified the legislative intent behind specialized commercial adjudication and emphasized the need for judicial consistency and subject-matter expertise.

The second session, also conducted by *Sri Rajiv Shankar Dwivedi*, examined the interplay between the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 and the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. Special emphasis was placed on the role of conciliation proceedings, pre-institution mediation, and settlement mechanisms under Section 12A of the Commercial Courts Act, highlighting their importance in reducing docket burden and encouraging early dispute resolution.

In the third session, *Sri Bibhash Sinha, Advocate, High Court of Jharkhand*, delivered a detailed presentation on relevant amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure aimed at ensuring expeditious disposal of commercial cases. The

session covered statutory timelines relating to service of summons, filing of written statements, control of adjournments, disclosure and discovery of documents, completion of evidence, submission of final arguments, and delivery of summary judgments, underscoring the judge's proactive role in case management.



The concluding session was conducted by *Sri Rahul Kumar Gupta, Advocate, High Court of Jharkhand*, who discussed jurisdictional aspects of Commercial Courts and Commercial Divisions of the High Court. The session addressed issues relating to bar of jurisdiction, determination of specified value, and appeals, providing clarity on procedural thresholds and appellate pathways under the commercial dispute resolution framework.



REFRESHER TRAINING PROGRAMME ON CIVIL LAWS(R-11)



A two-day Refresher Training Programme on Civil Laws for District Judges was conducted by the Judicial Academy Jharkhand on 22nd and 23rd November, 2025. The programme was specifically designed for District Judges with the objective of updating and strengthening their knowledge on key areas of civil law and judicial management.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Kumar Choudhary and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gautam Kumar Choudhary, Judges of the High Court of Jharkhand, deliberated on court and case management, focusing on avoiding procedural delays, and on appreciation and marshaling of evidence in civil cases, providing valuable judicial insights and practical guidance.



A detailed session on Wills, Probate and Letters of Administration was conducted by *Shri Swapan Mukherjee, Advocate, Civil Court, Dhanbad*, highlighting practical issues and procedural

nuances. This was followed by an interactive session on 'Tools and techniques for Speedy Disposal of Civil Appeals'.



On the second day, *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dr. Anshuman, Judge, Patna High Court*, delivered lectures on the general principles of succession, nature and scope of the Specific Relief Act, and essentials of a valid transfer of property, enriching the participants with doctrinal clarity and contemporary judicial perspectives.

The programme concluded with a discussion on way forward, reinforcing the importance of effective court management and sound application of civil law principles. Overall, the refresher course was highly enriching and contributed significantly to capacity building of District Judges.



DECEMBER 2025

REFRESHER TRAINING PROGRAMME ON CIVIL LAWS FOR DISTRICT JUDGES (COURSE NO. R- 12)



A two-day Refresher Training Programme on Civil Laws was held on 6th and 7th December 2025 at the Judicial Academy Jharkhand, Ranchi, for District Judges, with the objective of refreshing and strengthening their understanding of core areas of civil law, recent judicial trends, and practical aspects of adjudication. The programme aimed at enhancing judicial efficiency, ensuring uniformity in application of law, and reinforcing sound reasoning in civil adjudication.



The programme commenced on the first day with registration and group photography, followed by the first academic session conducted by *Dr. Shalini Saboo, Assistant Professor, Institute of Legal Studies, Ranchi University*. She delivered an engaging lecture on Customary Laws relating to inheritance in tribal societies of Jharkhand,

highlighting the unique socio-legal context of tribal customs, their recognition under law, and the challenges faced by courts in harmonising customary practices with statutory provisions and constitutional principles.



The second session was taken by *Sri Swapan Mukherjee, Advocate, Civil Court, Dhanbad*, who discussed the law relating to Will, Probate and Letters of Administration. He explained procedural requirements, evidentiary aspects, and common issues arising in testamentary matters, with emphasis on judicial scrutiny at different stages of proceedings.

In the third session, *Sri Swapan Mukherjee* further elaborated on the appreciation and marshalling of evidence in civil cases. The session focused on principles governing evaluation of oral and documentary evidence, burden of proof, and the role of judicial reasoning in arriving at well-founded conclusions.



The fourth session of the day was conducted by *Sri Rahul Kumar Gupta, Advocate, High Court of Jharkhand*, who addressed tools and techniques for speedy disposal of civil appeals. He highlighted best practices for case management, effective use of procedural law, and judicial strategies for reducing pendency while ensuring fairness and adherence to due process.



On the second day, the fifth session was delivered by *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dr. Anshuman, Judge, Patna High Court*, who spoke on the general principles of succession. His lecture provided a comprehensive overview of succession laws, interpretative approaches adopted by courts, and evolving jurisprudence governing inheritance disputes.

The sixth and concluding session, also conducted by *Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dr. Anshuman*, dealt with the nature and scope of the Specific Relief Act and the essentials of valid transfer of property. He explained statutory provisions, judicial precedents, and practical considerations involved in granting civil reliefs and adjudicating property disputes, stressing the importance of reasoned orders and consistency in civil adjudication.

The programme concluded with a lunch session and way forward discussion, where participants reflected on the learning outcomes of the training. Overall, the refresher programme provided an effective platform for District Judges to revisit foundational principles, engage with expert insights, and strengthen their adjudicatory skills in civil law, thereby contributing to efficient and just administration of civil justice.



REFRESHER TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR ASSISTANTS OF THE HIGH COURT (COURSE NO. HA-04)



The Judicial Academy Jharkhand organized a *one-day Refresher Training Programme for Assistants of the High Court of Jharkhand* on 12th October 2025, with the objective of strengthening procedural efficiency, administrative accuracy, and service-related awareness among ministerial staff of the High Court.

The programme commenced with an intensive technical session conducted by *Sri Santosh Kumar, Assistant Registrar, High Court of Jharkhand*. This session focused on filing procedures, registration, and listing of cases, with special emphasis on the procedure for e-filing, online filing, physical filing, issuance of online certified copies, and the use of digital signatures by officers and staff. The session addressed practical challenges faced by court staff in adapting to digitized court processes and reinforced best practices for accuracy and compliance.



The second technical session, also conducted by *Sri Santosh Kumar*, dealt with Civil Stamp Reporting, Criminal Stamp Reporting, and Writ Stamp Reporting. The discussion highlighted the critical role of court staff in ensuring proper scrutiny of filings and maintaining procedural discipline at the threshold stage of judicial proceedings.

In the third session, *Sri Santosh Kumar Agrawal, Joint Registrar, High Court of Jharkhand*, conducted an elaborate session on procedures for issuance of certified copies, functioning of Lawazima Boards, inspection of records, and procedures relating to notices. This session provided clarity on record management, transparency, and timely dissemination of judicial information, which are essential for effective court administration.

The final session of the programme focused on service jurisprudence and administrative responsibilities. Topics covered included Leave

Rules, the Jharkhand High Court Officers and Members of Staff (Recruitment, Conditions of Service, Conduct and Appeal) Rules, Noting and Drafting, and an overview of departmental

proceedings. This session aimed at enhancing awareness of service conditions, disciplinary mechanisms, and the importance of precise drafting in administrative decision-making.



TRAINING OF ADVOCATES / ADVOCATES' CLERKS ON COMPUTER SKILL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME LEVEL I & LEVEL II (ECT_12_2025)

In accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, and as part of the *e-Courts Capacity Building Programme*, the Judicial Academy Jharkhand conducted a *one-day Computer Skill Enhancement Programme (Level I & Level II) for Advocates and Advocates' Clerks on 12th October 2025* at District Headquarters across the State, in physical (offline) mode.

The programme was organized at the district level under the supervision of the respective District Judgeships, ensuring participation of Advocates and Advocates' Clerks from district as well as sub-divisional courts. The training was conducted by Advocate Master Trainers, and in their absence, by trainers nominated by the District Bar Associations or the concerned districts.



Each district-level programme accommodated approximately fifty (50) participants, selected by the District Judgeship in consultation with the local Bar Associations. The training aimed to enhance basic and intermediate computer skills, thereby strengthening the ability of Advocates and their Clerks to effectively engage with the e-Courts system, digital filing processes, and technology-driven court services.



The programme emphasized hands-on learning and practical exposure, contributing to greater digital literacy among court stakeholders and facilitating smoother integration of technology in court functioning. The successful conduct of the programme across districts reflected the Judicial Academy Jharkhand's sustained efforts towards inclusive digital capacity building and the effective implementation of e-Courts reforms at the grassroots level.

ONLINE E-COURTS PROGRAMME AT ALL DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS FOR CIVIL JUDGES (JUNIOR DIVISION) THROUGH SJA (ECT_16_2025)

In accordance with the approved Academic Calendar 2025-26, the Judicial Academy Jharkhand conducted an *Online e-Courts Programme for Civil Judges (Junior Division)* on 17th October 2025 across all District Headquarters of the State. The programme was organized under the Supreme Court E-Committee Training (ECT_16_2025) framework and was attended by officers of the Civil Judge (Junior Division) Cadre.

The training session was held in online mode from 4:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M., with participants required to log in prior to the commencement of the programme to ensure smooth connectivity and uniform participation. The programme aimed at strengthening digital competence and familiarising judicial officers with the evolving e-Courts ecosystem, in line with the objectives of technology-driven judicial administration.

To maintain technical efficiency and discipline during the session, specific connectivity protocols were followed. Participants joined the programme using official laptops and earphones provided under the E-Committee initiative, ensured continuous video presence throughout the session, remained on mute during deliberations, and utilised the chat interface for raising queries.

The programme reinforced the importance of effective utilisation of digital platforms in court functioning and contributed to enhancing the technological preparedness of Civil Judges (Junior Division) in the discharge of their judicial duties. The successful conduct of the programme reflected the Judicial Academy Jharkhand's continued commitment to implementing e-Courts reforms and promoting digital integration within the justice delivery system.



NOVEMBER 2025

PROGRAMME FOR TECHNICAL STAFFS OF DISTRICT COURTS – HARDWARE & SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE, DATA REPLICATION, DATA MONITORING, VC EQUIPMENT, LAN CONNECTIONS ETC. (ECT 11)



A one-day training programme titled “Programme for Technical Staffs of District Courts – Hardware & Software Maintenance, Data Replication, Data Monitoring, VC Equipment, LAN Connections etc. (ECT_11_2025)” was conducted on 2nd November 2025. The programme aimed at strengthening the technical capabilities of district court technical staff in managing IT infrastructure and e-Courts applications.



The programme commenced with an orientation session highlighting the need for change management and continuous upgradation of technical skills. *Sri Sajid, Assistant-cum-DSA, Civil Court, Ranchi*, addressed the participants on the objectives and relevance of the training in the context of digital transformation of courts.



The technical sessions covered software management and troubleshooting of key judicial applications such as CIS, NSTEPs, ePay, JUSTIS, ICJS, e-Filing, and related systems. Participants were also trained on server and network management, data replication and monitoring, backup policies, firewall and cybersecurity practices, virtualisation,

and database management using PostgreSQL. Practical exposure was provided on web server configuration, basic programming concepts, and court website management. These sessions were conducted by *Sri Bhaskar Kumar, Assistant-cum-DSA, Civil Court, Ranchi.*

The programme concluded with discussions on data security, privacy management, and cyber threats. Overall, the training proved to be concise, practical, and effective in enhancing the technical proficiency of district court staff and supporting efficient and secure court administration.

IN-HOUSE DISCUSSION ON LAW AND LATEST JUDICIAL TRENDS (D3)

In furtherance of its commitment to continuous judicial learning and professional development, the Judicial Academy, Jharkhand successfully conducted a quarterly academic initiative titled “In-House Discussion on Law and Latest Judicial Trends”, inspired by the philosophy of “Knowledge in Continuity.”

The programme was organised at District Headquarters and Sub-Divisional levels across the State and was presided over by the Principal District & Sessions Judges and Senior District & Additional Sessions Judges respectively. The initiative aimed at actively involving Judicial Officers in academic deliberations to keep them abreast of recent legal developments, amendments in law, and emerging judicial precedents through participatory learning.

As part of the quarterly schedule, the In-House Discussions were held between 11th and 15th November, 2025, on dates found suitable by the respective judgeships. For structured and focused

deliberation, the Judicial Academy, Jharkhand had identified and circulated select recent judgments of the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India, which formed the core of the discussions.

The judgments discussed during the sessions included:

1. N.P. Saseendran vs. N.P. Ponnamma & Others 2025 (2) JLJR (SC) 196
2. Narayan Yadav vs. State of Chhattisgarh 2025 (3) JLJR (SC) 321
3. Kallu Nat alias Mayank Kumar Nagar vs. State of Uttar Pradesh & Another 2025 (3) JLJR (SC) 437

The discussions facilitated interactive exchange of views, critical legal analysis, and shared understanding of contemporary judicial trends among the participating Judicial Officers, thereby strengthening institutional knowledge and consistency in judicial approach.

TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR ADVOCATES AND ADVOCATES’ CLERKS UNDER E-COURTS CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (ECT_7_2025)

Pursuant to the directions of the Hon’ble eCommittee, Supreme Court of India and the Hon’ble Judge In-Charge, Judicial Academy, Jharkhand, the Judicial Academy, Jharkhand successfully organised a One-Day Training Programme for Advocates and Advocates’ Clerks under the e-Courts Capacity Building Programme (ECT_7_2025).

The training programmes were conducted in physical (offline) mode at the District Headquarters across the State during the period 17th to 23rd November, 2025. The initiative aimed at enhancing digital awareness and practical understanding of e-Courts services and applications among Advocates and Advocates’ Clerks, including those from Taluk/Village and Sub-Divisional areas,

thereby strengthening grassroots access to digital justice delivery mechanisms.



Each district judgship organised the programme on a suitable day within the prescribed period, ensuring broad participation from the Bar. The trainings were conducted by Advocate Master Trainers, and in their absence, by the District System Administrators (DSAs) or designated Trainers of the concerned district.

For each programme, 50 participants, comprising Advocates and Advocates' Clerks, were nominated

by the respective district judgship in consultation with the local Bar Associations, ensuring balanced and representative participation.

The training sessions focused on:

- Practical usage of e-Courts services
- Case information systems
- e-Filing and digital court processes
- Enhancing efficiency and transparency in court-related work through technology

TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR TECHNICAL STAFF OF HIGH COURT (ECT_10)

A one-day training programme titled “*Programme for Technical Staff of High Court – Hardware & Software Maintenance, Data Replication, Data Monitoring, VC Equipment, LAN Connection etc. (ECT_10_2025)*” was conducted by the Judicial Academy Jharkhand on 23rd November, 2025. The programme was organised for Technical Staff and NIC Coordinators (Assistants) of the High Court of Jharkhand with the objective of enhancing technical efficiency in managing court IT infrastructure.



Sri Ashish Ranjan, System Officer, High Court of Jharkhand, conducted sessions on application software management, focusing on effective handling of judicial applications and system processes.

Subsequent sessions covered server administration, operating system installation and configuration, database administration, monitoring and data replication, delivered by Sri Raibata Chandra, Senior Networking Support Engineer, and Sri Rohit Kumar, Senior System Software & Database Support Engineer, High Court of Jharkhand. The sessions provided practical insights into database integrity, monitoring mechanisms, and replication practices.

The concluding technical sessions, conducted by Sri Prashant Srivastava and Sri V. S. Sandeep, focused on network administration and security, data management, hardware maintenance, digitisation of court records, and obtaining online certified copies. An interactive discussion and doubt-clearing session enabled participants to address practical challenges faced in day-to-day technical operations.



DECEMBER 2025

REFRESHER TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR MINISTERIAL STAFF (COURSE NO. MS- 3)



The Judicial Academy, Jharkhand conducted a *Refresher Training Programme for Ministerial Staff (Course No. MS-3)* on 4th December, 2025, catering to the Assistants of District Courts. The programme was designed to refresh and reinforce the participants' understanding of court procedures, administrative responsibilities, and statutory compliance, with the objective of enhancing efficiency, accuracy, and accountability in day-to-day court functioning.



The programme commenced with registration and group photography, followed by the first technical session conducted by *Sri Rajesh Sharan Singh, Director, Judicial Academy, Jharkhand*. He addressed the participants on the *duties and responsibilities of Bench Clerks and Office Clerks*, emphasizing their pivotal role in ensuring smooth court proceedings, proper maintenance of records, and adherence to procedural discipline within the judicial system.

The second session was delivered by *Sri Satyakam Priyadarshi, Additional Director, Judicial Academy*, who spoke on *routine orders in criminal and civil matters*. The session focused on

familiarising participants with standard judicial orders, common procedural directions, and the importance of precision and consistency in drafting and processing routine orders.



After the lunch break, the third session was conducted by *Sri Laxmikant, Additional Director, Judicial Academy*, who elaborated on the *Criminal Court Rules and Civil Court Rules*. The lecture provided clarity on procedural frameworks governing criminal and civil courts, highlighting practical issues encountered in court administration and the necessity of strict compliance with prescribed rules.

The fourth and concluding session was taken by *Sri Sanjay Kumar Saristedar, Civil Court, Ranchi*, who addressed the participants on *stamp reporting, court fees, and costs*. The session underscored correct reporting practices, prevention of procedural lapses, and the role of ministerial staff in ensuring financial and procedural accuracy in judicial records.

REFRESHER TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR MINISTERIAL STAFF AT DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS (MS 4)

The Judicial Academy, Jharkhand conducted a Training Programme on Court Procedures and Duties of Court Staff on 07th December, 2025 at the District Headquarters, for the staff and officials of the concerned judgships. The programme was organised with the objective of enhancing procedural clarity, ensuring uniformity in court practices, and strengthening the understanding of roles and responsibilities of court staff in criminal and civil matters.

As per the directions of the Academy, up to fifty staff/officials from each judgship, with at least one participant from every court or office, attended the training programme, which comprised a series of structured technical sessions conducted throughout the day. The programme commenced with the first technical session from 10:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. on *Criminal Court Rules and Civil Court Rules*, wherein the participants were sensitised to the procedural framework governing criminal and civil courts and the importance of strict

adherence to prescribed rules in day-to-day court functioning. After a brief tea break, the second technical session held from 11:45 A.M. to 01:00 P.M. focused on *Routine Orders in Criminal and Civil Matters*, dealing with the nature, drafting, and proper maintenance of routine judicial orders and the role of court staff in ensuring their timely and error-free processing. The post-lunch technical session from 02:00 P.M. to 03:15 P.M. was devoted to *Stamp Reporting, Fees, and Costs*, with emphasis on correct assessment and reporting practices to minimise procedural defects and ensure statutory compliance. After the second tea break, the concluding technical session from 03:30 P.M. to 05:00 P.M. addressed the *Duties and Responsibilities of Bench Clerks and Office Clerks*, highlighting their functional responsibilities, coordination between the Bench and Registry, proper record maintenance, and adherence to established administrative and procedural norms.

ONLINE COMPUTER SKILL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME (LEVEL I & LEVEL II) (ECT_13_2025)

The Judicial Academy, Jharkhand organised an *Online Computer Skill Enhancement Programme (Level I & Level II)* for Civil Judges (Junior Division) through the *State Judicial Academy (SJA)* on 12th December, 2025, in accordance with the approved Academic Calendar 2025–26. The programme was

conducted online from 04:30 P.M. to 05:30 P.M. at the District Headquarters for all officers of the Civil Judge (Junior Division) cadre, with the objective of enhancing digital proficiency and strengthening effective use of technology in judicial functioning.

The programme was conducted through an online platform, and the participants were provided with the necessary login credentials, meeting link, meeting number, and password in advance. The training programme was aimed at upgrading computer skills at both foundational and intermediate levels, thereby enabling judicial officers to efficiently handle digital

tools and online platforms increasingly used in court administration and judicial processes. The programme witnessed active participation from Civil Judges (Junior Division) across districts and contributed meaningfully towards capacity building in the domain of information technology and e-governance in the judiciary.

TRAINING PROGRAMME ON DIGITIZATION AT HIGH COURT LEVEL (ECT_06_2025)

The Judicial Academy, Jharkhand conducted a *Training Programme on Digitization at High Court Level (Course No. ECT-06-2025)* on 14th December, 2025, for the *Assistants of the High Court of Jharkhand*. The programme was aimed at sensitising the participants to the objectives, legal framework, and practical processes involved in digitisation of judicial records, with a view to strengthening transparency, efficiency, and technological integration in court administration.



The *first technical session* was conducted jointly by *Sri Sai Sandeep and Sri Vinay Koundal*. The speakers began by emphasising the importance of digitisation in the modern justice delivery system and explained the *basic objectives of scanning and digitising judicial records*, with reference to *Section 7 of the Information Technology Act, 2000*. They elaborated on the goals of digitisation projects at both the High Court and District Court levels, including initiation of the project, step-by-step workflow, day-to-day functioning, and the long-term benefits and utilities of digital records.

The session further covered the *Case Management System*, different *types of records*, including administrative and judicial records, and

the distinction between disposed and pending records and cases. The speakers also discussed the prerequisites for scanning and digitisation, minimum infrastructure requirements, and standard workflow processes to be followed while digitising judicial records.

The post-lunch technical session focused on the *practical aspects of digitisation*. The speakers explained procedures relating to weeding out of records, *destapling and untagging, checking of records, and metadata entry*. Detailed discussions were held on the *process of scanning using OCR, PDF and PDF/A formats, and ICR*, followed by *quality checking mechanisms at Level-1 and Level-2, and the importance of final approval through digital signing*.



The session also addressed *migration of records*, including transfer of disposed cases to servers as a *digital repository*, the purpose and benefits of record migration, and *integration of digitised records with Case Management System software*. These discussions provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of both conceptual and operational dimensions of digitisation.



LANDMARK JUDGEMENT

VIBHOR GARG V. NEHA

2025 SCC ONLINE SC 1421

The Supreme Court of India's recent landmark judgment in *Vibhor Garg vs. Neha (2025)* represents a pivotal constitutional moment that redefines the delicate equilibrium between fundamental rights within the matrimonial domain. This decision transcends traditional evidence law principles, offering profound insights into the evolving jurisprudence of privacy rights, fair trial guarantees, and the constitutional architecture governing private relationships in contemporary India.

Facts

The case arose from a divorce petition filed under Section 13 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, where the husband (*Vibhor Garg*) alleged cruelty by his wife (*Neha*). To substantiate his claims, Vibhor secretly recorded telephonic conversations between himself and his wife, which allegedly contained incriminating material about her conduct.

1. The Family Court in Bathinda admitted the recordings as evidence, stating that they were crucial to determining the facts.
2. However, when Neha challenged this decision, the Punjab & Haryana High Court reversed the Family Court's order, citing a violation of the wife's right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution.
3. Vibhor then approached the Supreme Court in Special Leave Petition (SLP) No. 21195/2021.

Legal Issues

The Supreme Court framed three critical questions for determination:

1. Whether a secretly recorded conversation can be permitted to be given in evidence?
2. Whether, in light of the Evidence Act and the Family Courts Act, a conversation between spouses can be permitted to be given in evidence in a proceeding for divorce?
3. Whether such recorded evidence should be disallowed solely on the ground that it is violative of the privacy of one of the spouses?

These questions encapsulated the broader tension between individual privacy rights and the requirements of fair adjudication in matrimonial disputes.

The Architectural Framework of Article 21: Privacy as a Qualified Right

Constitutional Privacy: Vertical Operation and State Action

The Supreme Court's analysis begins with a fundamental constitutional principle: Article 21's right to privacy operates primarily within the vertical sphere of State-citizen relationships. Drawing from the seminal *K.S. Puttaswamy* decision, the Court acknowledges that constitutional privacy rights are designed principally to constrain State power rather than regulate private interpersonal relationships.

This vertical conception of privacy rights reflects the foundational understanding that fundamental rights emerged historically as bulwarks against State tyranny. As Justice Bobde articulated in *Puttaswamy*, constitutional rights provide remedies against violations by the "State," while common law rights operate horizontally between private individuals. This doctrinal distinction becomes crucial in understanding why privacy claims between spouses cannot automatically trump other constitutional imperatives.

The Horizontal-Vertical Dichotomy in Contemporary Jurisprudence

The Court's treatment of horizontality gains additional significance when viewed against the backdrop of *Kaushal Kishor vs. State of U.P. (2023)*, where a constitutional bench recognized the horizontal application of Articles 19 and 21 in certain contexts. However, Justice Nagarathna's partial dissent in that case, emphasizing the distinction between constitutional and common law rights, provides the doctrinal foundation for the present judgment's approach to spousal relationships.

The *Vibhor Garg* decision skillfully distinguishes matrimonial disputes from the broader horizontal rights discourse by emphasizing that

Section 122 of the Evidence Act already carves out specific exceptions for inter-spousal litigation, thereby creating a statutory framework that obviates the need for constitutional horizontal application.

Section 122 and Marital Confidence: Protecting Sanctity, Not Individual Privacy

Legislative Intent and Historical Understanding

The Court's constitutional analysis reveals a crucial insight: Section 122 was designed to protect marital sanctity rather than individual privacy rights. Drawing from the 69th Law Commission Report, the judgment emphasizes that spousal privilege exists to preserve "the higher degree of confidence that goes with a marriage" and maintain domestic harmony.

This distinction between marital confidence and individual privacy has profound constitutional implications. While privacy rights protect individual autonomy from external interference, spousal privilege serves the broader social objective of strengthening the institution of marriage. When these two concepts conflict, the statutory framework of Section 122 provides the appropriate balancing mechanism rather than abstract constitutional privacy principles.

The Exception That Defines the Rule

The Court's interpretation of Section 122's exceptions demonstrates sophisticated constitutional reasoning. The provision explicitly permits disclosure of spousal communications "in suits between married persons," recognizing that when marriage itself becomes the subject of judicial scrutiny, the rationale for protecting marital confidence diminishes. This statutory exception reflects a legislative judgment that fair adjudication of matrimonial disputes requires access to relevant communications, even if such access compromises privacy.

The constitutional significance of this statutory framework cannot be overstated. It represents Parliament's deliberate balancing of competing values—marital harmony versus judicial truth-seeking—within the specific context of matrimonial disputes. The Court's deference to this legislative judgment demonstrates proper constitutional restraint and separation of powers.

Fair Trial Rights: The Constitutional Imperative of Truth-Seeking

Article 21 and Procedural Fairness

The Court's recognition that fair trial rights constitute an integral aspect of Article 21 adds another layer of constitutional complexity. When privacy claims conflict with fair trial guarantees, both rights derive from the same constitutional source, requiring careful balancing rather than categorical preference.

The judgment's treatment of this balance reflects a mature understanding of constitutional rights as interconnected rather than isolated principles. Fair trial rights encompass not merely formal procedural guarantees but substantive access to relevant evidence necessary for just adjudication. In matrimonial disputes, where private communications often constitute the only available evidence of crucial facts, excluding such evidence would effectively deny access to justice.

The Democracy of Evidence and Constitutional Values

The Court's observation that excluding covert recordings would "defeat the very object of the Evidence Act" reflects a deeper constitutional principle: the democratic character of evidence law. In a constitutional democracy, legal procedures must serve the broader goal of just governance. When privacy claims are allowed to systematically exclude relevant evidence, they undermine the constitutional commitment to equal justice under law.

This principle gains particular force in matrimonial disputes, where power imbalances and gender dynamics often affect access to conventional forms of evidence. The Court's decision ensures that technological means of evidence preservation cannot be categorically excluded merely because they were obtained without consent, thereby promoting substantive equality in judicial proceedings.

The Breakdown of Trust: Judicial Realism in Constitutional Analysis

Marriage as a Social Reality

The Court's pragmatic observation that "snooping between partners is an effect and not a cause of marital disharmony" demonstrates constitutional realism in its analysis. This insight reflects an

understanding that constitutional law must engage with social realities rather than idealized conceptions of relationships.

When marriages reach the point of litigation, the foundational trust that justifies spousal privilege has already eroded. In such circumstances, maintaining artificial privacy protections serves neither the interests of justice nor the preservation of marital harmony. The Court's recognition of this reality prevents privacy rights from becoming shields for avoiding accountability in intimate relationships.

Constitutional Rights and Social Context

This aspect of the judgment illustrates a crucial principle of constitutional interpretation: rights must be understood within their social context rather than as abstract philosophical constructs. The Court's analysis demonstrates that effective constitutional adjudication requires sensitivity to the lived experiences of litigants rather than rigid adherence to theoretical frameworks.

Common Law Rights versus Constitutional Rights: A Doctrinal Clarification

The Dual Nature of Rights

The Court's reaffirmation that "the content of a common law right may be similar to that of a fundamental right, but they are distinguished by the incidence of their duties on private entities and the State respectively" provides crucial doctrinal clarity. This distinction helps resolve the apparent paradox of recognizing privacy rights while simultaneously permitting their violation in specific contexts.

Privacy exists simultaneously as both a constitutional right (primarily vertical) and a common law right (horizontal). While the content may be similar, the enforcement mechanisms, remedies, and applicable standards differ significantly. In matrimonial disputes between private parties, common law privacy rights are subject to statutory limitations like Section 122's exceptions, whereas constitutional privacy rights primarily constrain State action.

Implications for Constitutional Jurisprudence

This doctrinal clarification has implications beyond matrimonial law. It provides a framework for understanding how constitutional rights interact with statutory schemes governing private relationships. Rather than constitutional rights

automatically trumping statutory frameworks, courts must consider whether the statutory scheme represents a valid legislative balancing of competing interests.

The Digital Age Challenge: Technology and Constitutional Adaptation

Technological Evolution and Legal Principles

The Court's acknowledgment that modern technology has made recording "as easy as clicking a button on a mobile phone" reflects constitutional law's need to adapt to technological change. The judgment demonstrates that constitutional principles must evolve to address new challenges while maintaining their essential character.

The Court's comparison of recorded conversations to "eavesdroppers" illustrates this adaptive approach. Just as the law has always permitted third-party testimony about overheard conversations, technological recording merely changes the mechanism of preservation, not the fundamental nature of the evidence.

Balancing Innovation and Rights

The judgment's approach to digital evidence reflects a balanced view of technological innovation's impact on constitutional rights. Rather than treating new technology as inherently suspect, the Court focuses on traditional evidentiary standards of relevance, accuracy, and reliability. This approach prevents technological advancement from being stymied by overly restrictive privacy interpretations while maintaining appropriate safeguards against abuse.

Procedural Safeguards and Constitutional Protection

In-Camera Proceedings and Dignity Protection

The Court's directive for in-camera proceedings and sealed transcript preservation demonstrates that recognizing fair trial rights need not completely sacrifice privacy and dignity concerns. These procedural safeguards reflect a nuanced understanding that constitutional rights can be balanced through careful procedural design rather than categorical exclusion.

The reference to Delhi Family Courts (Amendment) Rules, 2024, which protect sensitive information while permitting its judicial consideration, illustrates how legal systems can evolve to accommodate competing constitutional values. These developments suggest a mature

approach to rights balancing that seeks practical accommodation rather than zero-sum outcomes.

Judicial Discretion and Constitutional Values

The Court's emphasis on judicial discretion in weighing such evidence reflects confidence in judicial capacity to balance competing constitutional values case by case. This approach recognizes that constitutional rights operate within complex factual contexts that resist rigid categorical rules.

Feminist Constitutional Analysis and Power Dynamics

Gender and Access to Justice

While not explicitly addressed in the judgment, the decision has important implications for gender equality in matrimonial proceedings. Traditional evidence rules often disadvantage women, who may have limited access to formal documentation or third-party witnesses regarding domestic abuse or marital misconduct. Permitting covert recordings can help level the evidentiary playing field in ways that serve broader constitutional commitments to gender equality.

The Court's concern about socioeconomic differentials in access to recording technology, raised by the amicus curiae, reflects awareness of how technological solutions can create new forms of inequality. This concern illustrates the complex interplay between constitutional rights and social realities in contemporary India.

Private Violence and Public Justice

The judgment's approach reflects recognition that constitutional law must address violence and misconduct within private relationships. By preventing privacy claims from systematically shielding intimate partner abuse, the decision advances broader constitutional values of dignity and equality.

Implications for Future Constitutional Development

Precedential Value and Doctrinal Evolution

The *Vibhor Garg* decision establishes important precedents for future constitutional development. Its sophisticated treatment of the relationship between constitutional rights, statutory frameworks, and social realities provides a model for addressing similar conflicts in other areas of law.

The judgment's approach to horizontal rights questions offers valuable guidance for future cases involving private relationships and constitutional rights. Rather than mechanistically applying constitutional principles, courts must consider the specific statutory and social contexts in which rights conflicts arise.

Broader Constitutional Implications

The decision's implications extend beyond matrimonial law to broader questions about privacy, technology, and constitutional adaptation. Its framework for balancing competing constitutional values could influence future cases involving digital privacy, surveillance, and evidence law.

Conclusion

The Supreme Court's decision in *Vibhor Garg vs. Neha* represents a sophisticated approach to constitutional adjudication that transcends simplistic rights rhetoric to engage with the complex realities of contemporary Indian society. By carefully balancing privacy rights with fair trial guarantees, marital sanctity with individual accountability, and constitutional principles with statutory frameworks, the Court demonstrates the kind of nuanced constitutional reasoning necessary for addressing 21st-century challenges.

The judgment's greatest contribution lies not in its immediate impact on matrimonial proceedings, but in its broader demonstration of how constitutional law can evolve to address new challenges while maintaining fidelity to foundational principles. Its treatment of the relationship between constitutional and common law rights, its sophisticated approach to horizontal application questions, and its sensitive handling of technology's impact on traditional legal categories all contribute to a more mature understanding of constitutional rights in contemporary India.

As Indian constitutional law continues to grapple with the challenges of technological change, social transformation, and evolving rights consciousness, the *Vibhor Garg* decision provides a valuable template for principled yet pragmatic constitutional adjudication. It demonstrates that constitutional law's highest calling lies not in rigid adherence to abstract principles, but in the careful, contextual balancing of competing values in service of justice, equality, and human dignity.

ARTICLES

VICTIM COMPENSATION AND ROLE OF DLSA

Rajesh Kumar – II

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The concept of victim compensation is an essential aspect of the criminal justice system, aimed at providing financial assistance and rehabilitation support to victim who have suffered injury, loss, or trauma due to criminal acts. Section 2(y) of the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 defines 'Victim' means a person who has suffered any loss or injury caused by reason of the act or omission of the accused person and includes the guardian or legal heir of such victim.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966, UN declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for the Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, 1985 are few international instruments which highlighted that in the event of crime victim must be compensated. The 14th Law Commission (1996) had focused on 'Victimology' and also recommended for Victim Compensation Scheme. Similarly the report of Malimath Committee (2003) stressed that victim compensation is a state obligation in all serious crime and the victim must be adequately compensated by creating Victim Compensation Fund. Therefore, in 2009 Section 357A was added in the CrPC by way of an amendment. The victim compensation scheme was further fortified by the several judgments pronounced by the Hon'ble Courts including Ankush Shivaji Gaikwad v. State of Maharashtra (2013 SCC 770) where it was observed that it is mandatory duty of the criminal courts to consider the issue of victim compensation in every case. Similarly in Suresh v. State of Haryana (2015) 2 SCC 227 the Hon'ble Supreme Court observed that it is mandatory duty of all the criminal courts to consider and award victim compensation, including interim relief, regardless of whether a formal application is made by the victim.

Section 357 (A) Cr.P.C. (Now 396 BNSS) deals with Victim Compensation Scheme and it provides that -

The state shall create a fund under Victim Compensation Scheme for the purpose of compensation to the victim or his dependents

who has suffered loss or injury as a result of crime and who requires rehabilitation [S-396(1)].

On recommendation made by the Court the DLSA shall decide the quantum of compensation [S-396(2)].

If the court at the conclusion of trial feels that compensation awarded u/s 395 (by way of fine/ compensation) is not adequate or even if case ends in acquittal or discharge and the victim has to be rehabilitated in such cases the Court may make recommendation for compensation [S-396(3)].

Victim or his dependents may even directly approach to DLSA for award of compensation even though offender is not traced or identified, but the victims is identified and where no trial takes place [396(4)].

On recommendation or application for compensation the DLSA shall conduct inquiry within two months and award adequate compensation [396(5)].

Generally the compensation amount provided by the Court while convicting the accused is to be deducted while quantifying compensation under the victim compensation scheme but as per section 396(7) of the BNSS the compensation awarded under the victim compensation scheme shall be in addition to the payment of fine to the victim of Rape (S-65 of BNS) Gang Rape (S-70 of BNS) and Acid Attack (S-124 of BNS).

VICTIM COMPENSATION SCHEME OF JHARKHAND STATE

1. Victim Compensation Scheme of 2012 :

The State of Jharkhand under 357 A of Cr. P.C. (Now 396 BNSS) for the first time framed 'Jharkhand Victim Compensation Scheme 2012'. Under the schedule maximum limit of compensation was prescribed and was stated that maximum limit not to be exceeded. In the Schedule 1 maximum compensation was prescribed as follows :

Sl. No.	Particular of Loss or Injury	Maximum limit of compensation
1.	Loss of Life	₹ 02 Lakh
2.	Loss of any limb of part of body resulting 80% or above handicap	₹ 50,000/-
3.	Loss of any limb or part of body resulting 40 % & below 80 % handicap	₹ 20,000/-
4.	Rape of Minor	₹ 50,000/-
5.	Rape	₹ 20,000/-
6.	Rehabilitation	₹ 20,000/-
7.	Loss of any limb or part of body resulting below 40% handicap	₹ 10,000/-
8.	Loss of injury causing severe mental agony to women and child victims in case like human trafficking	₹ 10,000/-
9.	Simple Loss or injury to child victim	₹ 10,000/-

2. Victim Compensation (Amendment) Scheme of 2016 :

Under 2012 scheme, the State government had categorized only 09 offences under which the compensation was to be provided. The amount of compensation was very meager and the interpretation for awarding compensation was very restrictive. But the amendment of 2016 not only enhanced the compensation amount but the offence or class of category under which compensation is to be provided was also increased from 09 to 15. It has also been provided that the compensation amount shall be enhanced by 50% if the age of victim is below 14 years. The schedule of prescribed compensation in 2016 amendment is in following manner.

Sl. No.	Particular of Loss or Injury	Minimum limit of compensation
1.	Acid Attack	₹ 3 Lakh
2.	Rape	₹ 3 Lakh
3.	Sexual exploitation of minor	₹ 2 Lakh

Sl. No.	Particular of Loss or Injury	Minimum limit of compensation
4.	Rehabilitation of victim of Human Trafficking	₹ 1 Lakh
5.	Sexual Assault (not rape)	₹ 50,000/-
6.	Death	₹ 2 Lakh
7.	Permanent disability (80% or above)	₹ 2 Lakh
8.	Partial disability (40% to 80 %)	₹ 1 Lakh
9.	Victim of burns	₹ 2 Lakh
10.	Loss of Fetus	₹ 50,000/-
11.	Loss of Fertility	₹ 1.5 Lakh
12.	Lady victim of cross boarder firing	₹ 2 Lakh
13.	Loss of limbs (less than 40% disability)	₹ 50,000/-
14.	Child Victim in simple hurt	₹ 10,000/-
15.	Rehabilitation of other victim	₹ 50,000/-

In light of the Hon'ble Supreme Court direction passed in the case of *Tehseen S. Poonawala vs UOI & others (2018)* the Jharkhand state incorporated provision for victim compensation for Lynching/Mob violence. The notification issued on 31-08-2018 states that the victim of Lynching/Mob Violence shall be given compensation as per 2016 scheme for victim compensation.

3. Jharkhand Victim Compensation (Amendments) Scheme, 2019 :

In light of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgment passed in *Nipun Saxena Vs. UOI & others (2018)* the NALSA drafted the compensation scheme for women victim/survivors of Sexual Assault / other crimes 2018. The Government of Jharkhand incorporated the Scheme drafted by the NALSA by its notification dated 30-07-2019. The 2019 Scheme was meant for women victim/survivor. Under 2019 scheme broadly 13 category was provided and for the first time minimum limit and upper limit of compensation was provided. Under the schedule following compensation amount was prescribed for the women victims of crime.

Schedule Applicable to Women Victims of Crime:

Sl. No.	Particulars of loss or injury	Minimum Limit of Compensation	Upper Limit of Compensation
1	Loss of Life	₹ 5 Lakh	₹ 10 Lakh
2	Gang Rape	₹ 5 Lakh	₹ 10 Lakh
3	Rape	₹ 4 Lakh	₹ 7 Lakh
4	Unnatural Sexual Assault	₹ 4 Lakh	₹ 7 Lakh
5	Loss of any limb or part of body resulting in 80% permanent disability or above	₹ 2 Lakh	₹ 5 Lakh
6	Loss of any limb or part of body resulting in 40% and below 80% permanent disability or above	₹ 2 Lakh	₹ 4 Lakh
7	Loss of Limb or part of body resulting in above 20% and below 40% permanent disability	₹ 1 Lakh	₹ 3 Lakh
8	Loss of any limb or part of body resulting in below 20% permanent disability	₹ 1 Lakh	₹ 2 Lakh
9	Grievous physical injury or any mental injury requiring rehabilitation	₹ 1 Lakh	₹ 2 Lakh
10	Loss of Fetus i.e. Miscarriage as a result of Assault or loss of fertility	₹ 2 Lakh	₹ 3 Lakh
11	In case of Pregnancy on account of rape	₹ 3 Lakh	₹ 4 Lakh
12	Victim of Burning		
	a. In case of disfigurement of face	₹ 7 Lakh	₹ 8 Lakh
	b. In case of injury more than 50%	₹ 5 Lakh	₹ 8 Lakh
	c. In case of injury less than 50%	₹ 3 Lakh	₹ 7 Lakh
	d. In case of injury less than 20%	₹ 2 Lakh	₹ 3 Lakh

Sl. No.	Particulars of loss or injury	Minimum Limit of Compensation	Upper Limit of Compensation
13	Victims of Acid attack		
	a. In case of disfigurement of face	₹ 7 Lakh	₹ 8 Lakh
	b. In case of injury more than 50%	₹ 5 Lakh	₹ 8 Lakh
	c. In case of injury less than 50%	₹ 3 Lakh	₹ 5 Lakh
	d. In case of injury less than 20%	₹ 3 Lakh	₹ 4 Lakh

Under 2019 Scheme it has specifically been mentioned that except women victim, the compensation amount of other victims shall be guided by the 2016 Scheme.

ROLE OF DLSA IN VICTIM COMPENSATION

District Legal Services Authority or DLSA is to be considered as the 'Welfare Wing' of the Judiciary. The work of DLSA is in expansion mode. Providing Victim Compensation to the victim has been its one of the important work. Be it BNSS/ CrPC or the Jharkhand Victim Compensation Scheme, everywhere it has been stated the quantification of compensation shall be done by the DLSA. either on the basis of recommendation made by the Courts/ any other authority or the victim himself/herself comes with an application. The DLSA is under legal obligation to dully inquire the genuineness of the claim. The work of inquiry is generally conducted by the Secretary, DLSA. Thereafter, the inquiry report along with the file of the victim is put up before the 'Victim Compensation Committee'. The Victim Compensation Committee generally comprises under the Chairmanship of the Principal District & Sessions Judge who also happens to be the Chairman of DLSA. The other members of the Committee happen to be the District Magistrate (Vice Chairman of DLSA), Superintendent of Police (Member of DLSA) and the Secretary DLSA. After quantifying the compensation amount the same is forwarded with all necessary details of the victim to the District Administration for payment of compensation. It would be pertinent to mention here that the DLSA has no direct role in providing claim/compensation in the matter of Motor Accident Claim Cases.

FROM PHYSICAL TO VIRTUAL: EVOLUTION OF ORGANIZED CRIME IN JHARKHAND THROUGH CYBER TOOLS

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The story of organized crime in Jharkhand is no longer confined to forests, coal belts, or remote highways. It has quietly migrated into mobile phones, SIM cards, social media profiles, encrypted messaging platforms, and cloud servers located far beyond India's borders. What was once territorial, physical, and visibly violent has transformed into something far more elusive, scalable, and psychologically manipulative. This transformation is not merely technological; it is sociological, legal, and institutional. Jharkhand today stands at a critical intersection where traditional vulnerabilities meet advanced cyber-enabled criminality, demanding an equally evolved response from law, policing, and the judiciary.

Historically, organized crime in Jharkhand was associated with extortion, illegal mining, trafficking, and localized coercion. Digital access altered this equilibrium. Cheap smartphones, widespread mobile connectivity, and fragmented digital literacy created fertile ground for cyber tools to be adopted as force multipliers. Crime no longer required physical proximity. It required data, deception, and digital confidence. This shift marks a decisive movement from physical intimidation to virtual manipulation, where fear is generated not by visible weapons but by algorithmically amplified threats.

Nowhere is this evolution more symbolically evident than in Jamtara. Once an unremarkable district, it became synonymous with phishing frauds across India. Early scams relied on simple phone calls impersonating bank officials, exploiting trust and urgency. Over time, these methods matured. Fraudsters adopted fake KYC update links, app-based malware, investment lures, and identity cloning. The crime evolved from voice-based deception to multi-layered social engineering, often coordinated through call scripts, data leaks, and behavioral analysis.

Parallel to financial frauds, a deeply disturbing trend has emerged in rural Jharkhand: sextortion. Districts like Hazaribagh and Giridih have witnessed a surge in WhatsApp-based blackmail cases where victims, often women and adolescents, are coerced through morphed images, recorded video calls, or stolen personal data. These crimes thrive

on silence, stigma, and fear. Section 67 of the IT Act addresses the publication and transmission of obscene content, yet enforcement faces challenges due to anonymity and rapid content dissemination. Artificial intelligence offers a critical intervention point here. AI-driven victim support systems now assist in early detection of image misuse, pattern recognition of extortion messages, and anonymous reporting mechanisms that reduce psychological barriers for victims. These technologies do not replace human sensitivity; they amplify it by enabling timely intervention and evidence preservation. Artificial intelligence has entered both sides of this ecosystem. Criminals increasingly use automated scripts and voice modulation tools, while law enforcement leverages AI to detect call pattern anomalies, clustering of complaints, and recurring linguistic signatures. Section 66 of the Information Technology Act, once invoked sparingly, now anchors prosecutions involving data manipulation, identity theft, and unauthorized access facilitated through cyber deception.

Another alarming manifestation of cyber-enabled crime is the phenomenon of so-called digital arrest frauds. Jharkhand residents increasingly receive calls impersonating police officers, CBI officials, or customs authorities, threatening arrest unless immediate payments are made. These scams often involve caller ID spoofing, forged documents, and sometimes deepfake audio or video to simulate official legitimacy. Many of these operations are linked to international syndicates operating from Southeast Asia. Section 66D of the IT Act, dealing with cheating by personation using computer resources, has become central to such prosecutions. Here, AI-based deepfake detection tools and call authentication systems play a crucial role in verifying the legitimacy of communications. The challenge is not merely technological but legal, as courts must assess the admissibility and reliability of AI-verified evidence.

Jharkhand's role in cyber-enabled human trafficking reveals the darkest convergence of crime and technology. Young men and women are lured with fake job offers circulated through social media and messaging apps, only to be

trafficked to foreign countries and forced to work in scam centers. These cases have invoked Section 75 of the IT Act, which provides extraterritorial jurisdiction, recognizing that cybercrime respects no borders. AI-driven geospatial mapping tools, such as Pratibimb, assist investigators in tracing digital footprints across jurisdictions, linking recruitment nodes in Jharkhand to operational centers abroad. This represents a rare convergence where technology not only enables crime but also exposes its transnational architecture.

Financial frauds of this scale cannot function without money mule networks, and Jharkhand has emerged as a critical node. Districts like Deoghar, Dhanbad, and Koderma have seen the proliferation of mule accounts operated by individuals who may not fully comprehend the magnitude of their involvement. These accounts facilitate high-value frauds by providing temporary financial anonymity. Banking regulations now increasingly rely on AI-based transaction tracing to flag unusual fund flows, freeze suspicious accounts, and generate real-time alerts for law enforcement. The legal implications are complex, balancing culpability, intent, and socio-economic vulnerability.

Equally concerning is the growing involvement of minors in cybercrime. Schoolchildren have been found participating in phishing operations, often introduced through peer networks or online tutorials. This raises critical questions under the Juvenile Justice Act, requiring a shift from punitive responses to preventive education. Community-based programs integrating ethical digital literacy, supported by AI monitoring tools that flag harmful online behaviors without intrusive surveillance, offer a constructive path forward. The objective is not criminalization but correction, ensuring that technological aptitude becomes a societal asset rather than a criminal liability.

Predictive policing has emerged as a promising yet sensitive tool in addressing emerging cyber hotspots, particularly in Jharkhand's tribal regions such as Santhal Pargana. AI systems analyze data patterns from telecom usage, complaint clusters, and financial anomalies to anticipate crime waves before they peak. However, such interventions must be balanced with constitutional protections and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act. Predictive Policing 2.0 is not about suspicion without cause; it is about informed prevention grounded in lawful data governance.

Modern policing in Jharkhand increasingly reflects this synthesis of technology and law. AI tools such as ASTR enable the identification of fake SIM cards registered under forged identities. Natural Language Processing assists in automated FIR classification, managing the overwhelming volume of complaints received through the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal. Deepfake detection technologies safeguard evidentiary integrity in an era where digital fabrication is increasingly sophisticated. These tools redefine investigation but also demand legal clarity regarding chain of custody and evidentiary standards under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam.

The legal landscape itself is evolving. The 2025 amendment to the IT Rules, introducing mandatory labeling of AI-generated content, has significant implications for digital forensics and attribution. Jurisdictional paradoxes continue to challenge courts when crimes span multiple states and countries. Questions of algorithmic accountability arise when AI-driven tools produce false positives, compelling the judiciary to delineate responsibility between human decision-makers and technological systems.

Empowering women against cybercrime has become a priority in Jharkhand, where AI-powered, multilingual chatbots facilitate accessible reporting in line with NCRB guidelines. These systems reduce barriers of language, literacy, and fear, transforming reporting from an ordeal into a right exercised with dignity.

The evolution of organized crime in Jharkhand from physical to virtual is neither accidental nor irreversible. It reflects broader global trends intersecting with local vulnerabilities. The response must therefore be equally layered. Law alone is insufficient without technological competence. Technology is dangerous without legal restraint. Policing cannot succeed without judicial foresight. Jharkhand's challenge is not its association with cybercrime, but its opportunity to become a model for integrated cyber justice.

This moment demands humility, coordination, and courage. The same digital tools that enabled crime can empower justice when guided by constitutional values, informed by social realities, and interpreted by a judiciary attuned to the complexities of the cyber age. The transition from physical to virtual crime is complete. The transition from reactive enforcement to anticipatory justice must now follow.