

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGSSUO MOTO WRIT PETITION(CRIMINAL) No(s) . 3/2025

IN RE: VICTIMS OF DIGITAL ARREST RELATED TO FORGED DOCUMENTS

(IA No. 285112/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 276131/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 272915/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 302659/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 301598/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 285111/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 284590/2025 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT and IA No. 283419/2025 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT)

Date : 16-12-2025 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

For Amicus Curiae: Ms. N.S. Nappinai, Amicus Curiae
Mr. C. Kannan, Adv.
Ms. Sthavi Asthana, AOR

For Petitioner(s) : By Courts Motion, AOR

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Shekhar Raj Sharma, A.A.G.
Mr. Akshay Amritanshu, AOR
Ms. Nidhi Narwal, Adv.
Ms. Srishti Jain, Adv.
Ms. Drishti Rawal, Adv.
Mr. Abhay Nair, Adv.
Mr. Sarthak Srivastava, Adv.
Mr. Mayur Goyal, Adv.

M/S R And R Law Associates, AOR
Mr. Pradeep Kumar Rai, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Vineet Bhagat, Adv.
Ms. Modoyia Kayina, Adv.
Ms. Farhat Naim, Adv.
Mr. Vinay Kumar Rai, Adv.
Mrs. Rajshree Rai, Adv.
Mr. Shreyansh Singh, Adv.
Mr. Parimal Rai, Adv.
Mr. Virendra Singh, Adv.
Mr. Harish Gupta, Adv.

Mr. Vishnu Sharma, Standing Counsel, Adv.
Ms. Madhusmita Bora, AOR

Mr. Riju Raj Singh Jamwal, Adv.

Mr. Vaibhav Chechi, Adv.

Mrs. Anupama Sharma, Adv.

Mr. R. Venkataramani, Attorney General

Mr. Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General

Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, AOR

Mr. Madhav Sinhal, Adv.

Ms. Mili Joy Baxi, Adv.

Mr. Gaurav Arya, Adv.

Mr. Bhuvan Kapoor, Adv.

Mr. Mayank Pandey, Adv.

Mr. Aman Mehta, Adv.

Ms. Ameyavikraman Thanvi, Adv.

Mr. Chitvan Singhal, Adv.

Mr. Abhishek Kumar Pandey, Adv.

Mr. Raman Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Kartikay Aggarwal, Adv.

Mr. Vivek Sharma, AOR

Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Basava Prabhu S Patil, Adv. Gen.

Mr. Sameer Abhyankar, AOR

Mr. Krishna Rastogi, Adv.

Mr. Aryan Srivastava, Adv.

Mr. Arijeeet Shukla, Adv.

Mr. Sivanandh Lahri, Adv.

Mr. Pukhrambam Ramesh Kumar, AOR

Mr. Karun Sharma, Adv.

Ms. Anupama Ngangom, Adv.

Ms. Rajkumari Divyasana, Adv.

Mr. Harshad V. Hameed, AOR

Mr. Dileep Poolakkot, Adv.

Mrs. Ashly Harshad, Adv.

Mr. Mahabir Singh, Adv.

Mr. Anshul Saharan, Adv.

Mr. Sudarshan Singh Rawat, AOR

Mr. Sunny Sachin Rawat, Adv.

Ms. Saakshi Singh Rawat, Adv.

Ms. Disha Singh, AOR

Ms. Eliza Bar, Adv.

Mr. Jai Anant Dehadrai, AOR

Mr. R Venkataramani, Attorney General for India

Mr. Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General

Mr. Mukesh Kr. Verma, Adv.

Mr. Varun Chugh, Adv.
Ms. Indira Bhakar, Adv.
Mr. Krishna Kant Dubey, Adv.
Mr. Rajesh Singh Chouhan, Adv.
Mr. Mayank Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Madhav Sinhal, Adv.
Mili Baxi, Adv.
Mr. Gaurav Arya, Adv.
Mr. Bhuvan Kapoor, Adv.
Ameyavikrama Thanvi, Adv.
Chitvan Singhal, Adv.
Abhishek Kumar Pandey, Adv.
Raman Yadav, Adv.
Kartikay Aggarwal, Adv.
Mr. Santosh Ramdurg, Adv.
Mr. Arvind Kr. Sharma (aor), Adv.
Mr. Shreekant Neelappa Terdal, AOR

Mr. Shovan Mishra, AOR
Ms. Bipasa Tripathy, Adv.
Mr. Shlok Luthra, Adv.

Mr. Sharan Dev Singh Thakur, Sr. A.A.G.
Ms. Ruchira Goel, AOR
Ms. Ayushi Srivastava, Adv.

Mr. Manoj K. Mishra, AOR
Mr. Umesh Dubey, Adv.
Ms. Madhulika, Adv.
Mr. Anand Kumar Rai, Adv.
Mr. Radeesh Kumar Mt, Adv.
Mr. Amulya Dev Mishra, Adv.

Mr. Guntur Pramod Kumar, AOR
Ms. Prerna Singh, Adv.
Mr. Dhruv Yadav, Adv.

Mr. Aravindh S., AOR
Mr. Akshay Gupta, Adv.
Ms. Anika Bansal, Adv.

Dr. Mahendra Limaye, Adv.
Mr. Alok Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Nayan Gupta, Adv.
Ms. Sthavi Asthana, AOR

Ms. Baani Khanna, AOR
Mr. Robin Singh, Adv.
Mr. Kapil Balwani, Adv.
Ms. Komal Thakkar, Adv.

Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AOR

Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv.
Mr. Shrirang B. Varma, Adv.
Mr. Bharat Bagla, Adv.
Mr. Sourav Singh, Adv.
Mr. Aditya Krishna, Adv.
Mr. Adarsh Dubey, Adv.
Ms. Chitransha Singh Sikarwar, Adv.

Mr. Chinmoy Sharma, Sr. A.A.G.
Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, AOR
Mr. Deepayan Dutta, Adv.
Mr. Saurabh Tripathi, Adv.

Mr. Shiv Mangal Sharma, A.A.G.
Ms. Sonali Gaur, Adv.
Ms. Nidhi Jaswal, AOR

Dr. Sunil Kumar Agarwal, AOR
Mr. Anuj Kumar Agarwal, Adv.
Mrs. Amita Agarwal, Adv.
Mr. Madan Lal Daga, Adv.
Mr. K. Jayakaran, Adv.
Mrs. Mamta Singh, Adv.
Mr. Amarjeet Sahani, Adv.
Mr. Sachin Kumar Srivastava, Adv.
Ms. Shweta Bhardwaj, Adv.
Mr. Daleep Singh, Adv.

Mr. Prashant Kumar Umrao, AOR
Mr. Rishesh Sikarwar, Adv.

Ms. Devina Sehgal, AOR
Mr. Srikanth Varma Mudunuru, Adv.

Ms. K. Enatoli Sema, AOR
Mr. Amit Kumar Singh, Adv.
Ms. Chubalemla Chang, Adv.
Mr. Prang Newmai, Adv.
Ms. Yanmi Phazang, Adv.

Mr. Vipin Nair, Adv.
Mr. Amit Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Kaustubh Shukla, Adv.
Mr. Aljo K. Joseph, Adv.
Mr. Vishal Prasad, Adv.
Ms. Reena Pandey, Adv.
Ms. Meenakshi Kalra, Adv.
Ms. Pragya Parijat Singh, Adv.
Ms. Astha Sharma, AOR
Mr. Aditya Giri, Adv.
Mr. A Selvin Raja, Adv.
Mr. Ankur Prakash, Adv.

Mr. Nipun Saxena, Adv.
Ms. Anju Thomas, Adv.
Mr. Sanjeev Kaushik, Adv.
Ms. Mantika Haryani, Adv.
Mr. Shreyas Awasthi, Adv.
Ms. Pratibha Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Anirudh Gotety, Adv.
Ms. Monal Prasad, Adv.
Ms. Aadya Pandye, Adv.
Ms. Deepali Dabas, Adv.

Mr. Avishkar Singhvi, A.A.G.
Mr. Naveen Sharma, AOR
Mrs. Swati Bhushan Sharma, Adv.
Mr. S.k. Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Divya Prabha Singh, Adv.
Ms. Sakshi Raman, Adv.
Ms. Payal Gola, Adv.
Mr. Muhammad Ali Khan, A.A.G.
Mr. Omar Hoda, Adv.
Ms. Eesha Bakshi, Adv.
Mr. Kamran Khan, Adv.
Ms. Pragya, Adv.
Ms. Ayesha Khan, Adv.

Mr. Anuj Agarwal, Adv.
Ms. Charu Ambwani, AOR

Mr. Prashant Singh, Adv.
Mrs. Prerna Dhall, Adv.

Mr. Subhasish Bhowmick, AOR
Mr. Suraj Kumar Singh, Adv.

Mr. Ramesh Babu M.R., AOR
Ms. Nisha Sharma, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

IA No.315921/2025

1. The applicant, who is an advocate, seeks to intervene and assist this Court in the matter. We decline the application with liberty to members of the Bar to give their invaluable suggestions to the learned Amicus Curiae and, through her, place their viewpoint on record for our consideration. The IA No.315921/2025 is, accordingly, dismissed.

2. The applicant is a 76-year-old senior citizen and a widowed pensioner. She is also a victim of digital arrest, and her entire life savings were siphoned from the bank account through a digital arrest scam. Though an FIR No.59/2025 was registered on 26.08.2025, her voice has not been heard in the corridors of the Banks and the investigating agencies.

3. We, therefore, call upon the Delhi Police to file a status report and also hand over the investigation of this FIR to the CBI in terms of our order dated 01.12.2025. The applicant, in addition, is permitted to assist this Court through the good offices of the learned Amicus Curiae.

4. IA No.321436/2025 is, accordingly, allowed.

Main Matter

5. The learned Amicus Curiae has placed on record certain recommendations which are meant to be considered by: (i) the Department of Telecommunications, (ii) the telecommunications service providers, (iii) the Ministry of Telecommunications, and (iv) the Reserve Bank of India and other intermediaries. Similarly, the learned Amicus Curiae has also proposed the scheme for victim compensation.

6. Learned Attorney General for India states that the Reserve Bank of India is present through its counsel and that various proposals are under active consideration of the banking sector to infuse a robust mechanism to prevent the fraudulent transactions normally emanating out of digital arrest scams. He also states

that the inter-departmental ministerial consultation will also consider the recommendations made by the learned Amicus Curiae, as also those reflected in the directions issued by this Court through a comprehensive order dated 01.12.2025, while referring the matters to the CBI for investigation.

7. We have no reason to doubt that all the inter-departmental ministerial consultations, under the guidance of the learned Attorney General, shall take an appropriate decision at their end and apprise this Court. The recommendations made by the learned Amicus Curiae should also be considered by the concerned quarters.

8. Learned Attorney General informs that the CBI has given inputs to him, which shall be placed on record at the appropriate time.

9. It is, however, clarified that if the CBI needs any further direction from this Court for the timely and effective ongoing investigation, let such prayer be made, formally or otherwise, so as to prevent further delay.

10. One suggestion that has come forward during the course of the hearing is that it is not only SIM cards but the SIM box, which is being issued by the telecommunication service providers, also needs to be strictly regulated. We direct the telecommunication service providers to immediately address this issue and take all necessary measures to prevent the issuance of SIM boxes.

11. List on 13.01.2026.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI T.C.)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR