

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

SUO 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
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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