



प्रगति

न्याय के उत्कृष्ट २७ वर्ष



THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND



प्रगति

न्याय के उत्कृष्ट 25 वर्ष







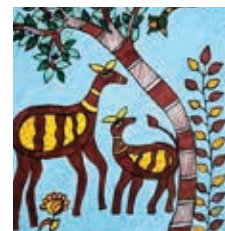
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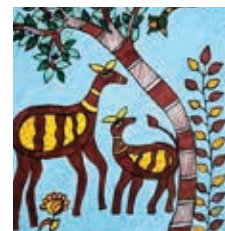


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Smt. Droupadi Murmu
President of India



राष्ट्रपति
भारत गणतंत्र
PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF INDIA

MESSAGE

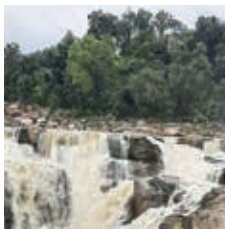
I am happy to know that the High Court of Jharkhand, Ranchi will be completing 25 years on 15th November, 2025. A souvenir is also being published to mark the occasion.

The High Court of Jharkhand has made notable strides since its establishment. It has achieved significant milestones in its jurisprudence by upholding the rule of law, promoting administrative accountability and delivering judgments that protect individual rights and social justice. The High Court's continued efforts to embrace technology, enhance transparency and deliver justice efficiently, especially to those at the margins of society. I am confident that this esteemed institution will continue to be a sentinel of justice.

On this occasion, I extend my warm greetings and felicitations to all those associated with the High Court of Jharkhand and wish the Silver Jubilee celebrations every success.

(Droupadi Murmu)

New Delhi
November 06, 2025





Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India



प्रधान मंत्री
Prime Minister

MESSAGE

It is a pleasure to learn about the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Jharkhand High Court. Warm greetings and best wishes to everyone who has been a part of the institution and to the people of Jharkhand on this joyous occasion.

This transformative journey is a result of the untiring efforts by generations of judges, lawyers and administrative personnel who have worked to deliver justice for the people of Jharkhand.

The makers of our Constitution have emphasised the principle of justice. The judiciary is one of the key pillars of democracy and good governance, as it has the important responsibility of helping people secure justice. The Jharkhand High Court has upheld this duty with commitment and aided the development journey of the State. When institutions deliver, the faith of our people in the system is strengthened.

Over the past decade, we have worked on several measures to build a strong digital infrastructure. The e-Courts project, facilities for e-filing, electronic summons service, virtual hearings, video conferencing and many such tech-driven initiatives help our judicial ecosystem become more efficient and effective. Further, the removal of thousands of unnecessary compliances and outdated laws helped reduce litigation that could potentially clog courts.

As this esteemed institution celebrates this momentous milestone, I am sure that this is also becoming an opportune occasion to reiterate the resolve to enhance Ease of Justice for the people of Jharkhand.

Best wishes for making the Silver Jubilee celebrations a success.

(Narendra Modi)

New Delhi
कार्तिक 19, शक संवत् 1947
10 November, 2025





SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR
GOVERNOR OF JHARKHAND



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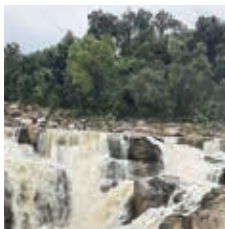
Message

It gives me immense pleasure to know that the High Court of Jharkhand, Ranchi is celebrating the Silver Jubilee of its establishment. This milestone marks twenty-five years of dedicated service in upholding the rule of law, safeguarding constitutional values, and ensuring justice for the people of Jharkhand.

Over the years, the High Court of Jharkhand has played a pivotal role in strengthening the pillars of democracy by maintaining the faith of the citizens in the judiciary. Through its progressive judgments and judicial initiatives, the Court has contributed significantly to the protection of fundamental rights, promotion of social justice, and advancement of good governance in the State.

On this momentous occasion, I extend my congratulations and best wishes to the Hon'ble Chief Justice, Hon'ble Judges, Members of the Bar, and all officers and staff of the High Court of Jharkhand. I am confident that the institution will continue to uphold the highest traditions of the Indian judiciary and remain steadfast in its pursuit of justice, fairness, and equality for all, and continue to serve as a model for other High Courts across the nation.


(Santosh Kumar Gangwar)





B. R. GAVAI
CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

3rd November 2025

MESSAGE

I am delighted to learn that the High Court of Jharkhand, Ranchi, is celebrating the completion of twenty-five years of its distinguished journey since its inception on 15th November 2000. This landmark occasion marks a significant chapter in the judicial history of the State and stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment of the institution to uphold the rule of law and secure justice for all.

Over the past twenty-five years, the High Court of Jharkhand has played a vital role in advancing the constitutional ideals of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. Through its judicious pronouncements and principled approach, the Court has made notable contributions to the development of jurisprudence and the protection of citizens' rights. The devotion of the Hon'ble Judges, the steadfast support of the Bar, and the diligence of the judicial officers and staff have collectively enabled the institution to discharge its constitutional mandate with distinction and integrity.

As the High Court commemorates this historic milestone, it provides an occasion for reflection upon its accomplishments, reaffirmation of its commitment to the cause of justice, and renewed dedication to meeting the challenges of an evolving legal landscape. I extend my warm felicitations to all the Hon'ble Judges, Members of the Bar, Officers, and Staff of the High Court of Jharkhand on this momentous occasion and convey my best wishes for the institution's continued growth, excellence, and service in the years ahead.

(B.R. Gavai)

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MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my heartfelt greetings and warm wishes to the Hon'ble Judges, Members of the Bar, Officers, and Staff of the High Court of Jharkhand on the momentous occasion of its 25th year of establishment.

The creation of the State of Jharkhand on 15th November 2000, which also marks the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, the valiant hero of our land — was not merely an administrative reorganization, but a realization of the long-cherished aspirations of our people. The establishment of the Jharkhand High Court on that historic day marked the beginning of a new chapter in our collective journey towards justice, equity, and inclusive development.

The Executive has been privileged to contribute to the strengthening of the judicial infrastructure of the State. The construction of the new building of the Jharkhand High Court at the State headquarter stands as a symbol of this partnership and commitment.

As the High Court of Jharkhand celebrates this significant milestone, I extend my sincere appreciation to everyone associated with this august institution for their invaluable contribution in strengthening justice delivery in the State. I am confident that the Court will continue to uphold its proud legacy of judicial excellence and remain steadfast in promoting justice, fairness, and equality for all.

May this Silver Jubilee inspire us to renew our shared commitment to building a just, prosperous, and inclusive Jharkhand.

(Hemant Soren)



Surya Kant
Judge, Supreme Court of India



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MESSAGE

I am elated to extend my sincere greetings to the High Court of Jharkhand on the blissful occasion of its Silver Jubilee Celebration.

The completion of twenty-five years marks an important milestone in the journey of this esteemed institution. The High Court of Jharkhand, since its inception, has steadfastly upheld the constitutional ideals of justice, liberty, and equality, serving as a bulwark of the rule of law and ensuring that justice is accessible to all.

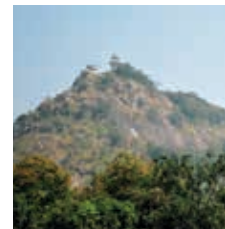
In a relatively short span, the High Court has distinguished itself by its commitment to fairness, accessibility, and the progressive interpretation of law. Its jurisprudence reflects a deep sensitivity to the social and economic realities of the State and a consistent endeavour to uphold the dignity of every individual. The institution's contribution to advancing social justice and protecting the rights of the underprivileged deserves high commendation.

The Silver Jubilee is both a celebration and a moment of reflection—an opportunity to renew our collective resolve to make the delivery of justice more inclusive, efficient, and humane. At a time when the judiciary is embracing transformation through technology and transparency, the enduring values of integrity, empathy, and wisdom remain our greatest strength.

I am confident that the High Court of Jharkhand will continue to uphold these ideals and serve as a beacon of justice, harmony, and constitutional values for generations to come.

I extend my best wishes to the Chief Justice, the Judges, members of the Bar, and all those associated with the High Court of Jharkhand on this momentous occasion.

Surya Kant
[Surya Kant]





Vikram Nath
Judge
Supreme Court of India



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6th November, 2025

Congratulations on Silver Jubilee!

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my heartiest congratulations to the Jharkhand High Court on the momentous occasion of its Silver Jubilee. Twenty-five years of dedicated service to justice is indeed a milestone worthy of celebration and reflection.

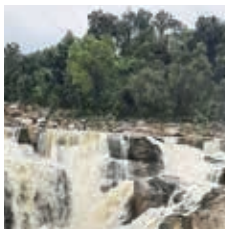
Courts are the temples of justice where the Constitution breathes life into the daily experiences of citizens. As Roscoe Pound beautifully expressed, "The law must be stable, but it must not stand still". Our courts embody this balance, of upholding timeless principles while remaining responsive to the evolving needs of society.

Jharkhand's unique landscape, rich in minerals and forests, often places the Jharkhand High Court at the heart of decisions with far-reaching environmental and developmental impact. The Court's vigilant approach in matters concerning mining, land use, and forest preservation has reinforced the principle that economic growth must remain consistent with environmental justice and constitutional values. In its steady journey, it has exemplified what Tennyson wrote, "Strong in will, to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

At the heart of judicial function lies a dual duty- to the Constitution and to the people. The Constitution is our guiding star, and the people are the ultimate sovereigns we serve. This duty becomes even more significant in challenging times, when the winds of uncertainty blow and difficult questions demand answers. It is precisely in such moments that courts must stand firm, guided by constitutional values and an unwavering commitment to justice. In times of trial and tribulation, the judiciary serves as that protection, ensuring that the rule of law prevails and that the rights of every citizen remain secure.

As you celebrate this milestone, I am filled with optimism about the future. May this institution continue to flourish and may it remain true to the noble ideals of justice, fairness, and service to society.

(Vikram Nath)





J. K. Maheshwari
Judge
Supreme Court of India



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MESSAGE

It is a moment of great pride and reflection as we celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Jharkhand High Court — twenty-five years of steadfast commitment to justice, fairness, and constitutional values. This milestone is a testament to the institution's evolution and the collective dedication of all who have contributed to its journey — judges, lawyers, court staff, and the citizens we serve.

Since its inception, the Jharkhand High Court has stood as a pillar of hope and trust for the people of the State, and has shaped jurisprudence across diverse areas of law — from protecting the rights of marginalized communities to upholding principles of environmental justice, transparency, and accountability. Each decision delivered from its benches echoes the constitutional promise of equality, liberty, and justice for all.

As we celebrate the past, we must be inspired by the present. The oath we take demands vigilance, integrity, and relentless pursuit of constitutional ideals. To every judicial officer and lawyer, I offer this inspiration: let the quest for truth and equity be an enduring mission. The power of the Court lies in its impartiality and its capacity to protect the most vulnerable. It is this responsibility that must fuel our daily work.





J. K. Maheshwari
Judge
Supreme Court of India



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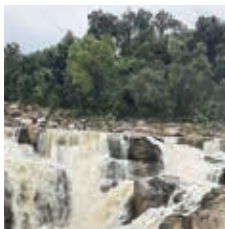
Looking forward, the next quarter-century demands we embrace change. As we enter this new chapter, we must envision a well-defined and transformative roadmap for the next 25 years, one that steers the institution's growth in step with the changing aspirations of the people we serve. Our commitment must be to enhance judicial efficiency while steadfastly preserving the core values of independence and fairness. Let us endeavour to continue to be a beacon of hope, a robust defender of fundamental rights, and a constant guardian of the Constitution of India. Let us move into the future with renewed vigour, collaborative spirit, and an absolute commitment to serving justice.

May the High Court of Jharkhand continue to illuminate the path of justice for decades to come, setting higher standards of judicial excellence and serving as a beacon of hope for every citizen.

With warm regards and best wishes on this historic occasion.


(J.K. Maheshwari)

New Delhi:
November 08, 2025.





Justice B. V. Nagarathna
Judge
Supreme Court of India



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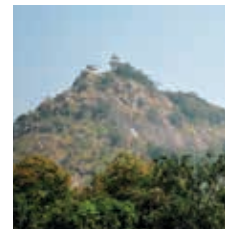


MESSAGE

It gives me a profound sense of privilege to extend my warmest congratulations to the people of Jharkhand, Hon'ble Chief Justice of the High Court of Jharkhand, Hon'ble Judges of the High Court, distinguished members of the Bar, learned judicial officers and secretarial staff of the High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi on the august occasion of its Silver Jubilee.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Bar and the Bench for commendable work delivered over the last quarter of a century. The Bench and the Bar have worked in tandem to nurture a strong foundation of jurisprudence and have firmly established this Court as a vital pillar of our judicial system.

To employ the apposite characterization of Patanjali Sastri, C. J., our Founding Parents indeed envisioned the High Courts and the Supreme Court as *sentinels qui vive*, the watchful enforcers of fundamental rights enshrined in Part III of the Constitution. The High Courts are duty-bound to navigate through uncharted questions of law and protect fundamental rights from arbitrary State action just as they are duty-bound to ensure that the State's social justice and development agenda progresses smoothly within the contours of law. I say with earnest comfort that the High Court of Jharkhand has, over the last quarter of a century, diligently worked to protect the rights of all citizens, including the significant tribal communities and has delivered crucial judgments on matters of environmental, industrial, and constitutional law.





Justice B.V. Nagarathna
Judge
Supreme Court of India



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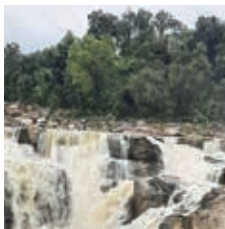
The Silver Jubilee is an occasion for taking stock of our traditions, responsibilities and outlining the way ahead. India's judicial tradition is rooted in the dedicated application of its resources, including the judge's own painstaking labour. In the archives of some High Courts, for instance, one can find judgments and decrees written in judges' own hands before shorthand was introduced.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the 1976 Act evince that the decision to set up a circuit bench of the Patna High Court at Ranchi in 1972 was grounded in the solemn goal of expanding access to justice. As the High Court enters into the second quarter of its existence and India enters into the second quarter of the twenty-first century, welcomed by unprecedented challenges and questions of law, we must re-affirm our commitment to dispensing accessible, effective and expeditious justice. The needs of a developing country and the trust of the citizen in the judiciary can be sustained only if the hands of justice act correctly and expeditiously. As Subba Rao, C.J. had once remarked, '*While it is true that hustled justice is bad, delayed justice is worse.*' !

I send my very best wishes for the Silver Jubilee celebrations. I am sure that the judges of the High Court of Jharkhand will perform their duty of dispensation of justice assisted most effectively by members of an independent and competent Bar.

(B.V. Nagarathna)

New Delhi;
November 7, 2025.





M.M. SUNDRESH
Judge, Supreme Court of India

10, Krishna Menon Marg,
New Delhi-110011

MESSAGE

"If we do not maintain justice, justice will not maintain us." — Francis Bacon

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the High Court of Jharkhand on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee. This milestone is not merely a measure of time but a celebration of an enduring commitment to the pursuit of justice, guided by constitutional values and the unyielding spirit of dharma.

Since its establishment in the year 2000, the High Court of Jharkhand has evolved into a luminous institution. Through its judgments and its jurisprudential vision, it has shaped not only the legal landscape of the State but has also contributed meaningfully to the broader discourse on Indian constitutionalism.

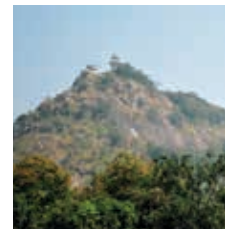
This milestone is also an occasion to acknowledge the tireless efforts of the Judges, Members of the Bar, and the staff who have, over the years, shaped and sustained the institution with their dedication and integrity. The trust reposed by the public in the judiciary is our greatest responsibility, and occasions such as this remind us of our duty to preserve that trust.

I convey my warm felicitations and best wishes for the continued glory of this august institution.

M.M. Sundresh

(M. M. Sundresh)

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Justice Dipankar Datta
Judge, Supreme Court of India



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NOVEMBER 10, 2025

MESSAGE

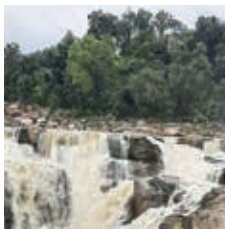
As the High Court of Jharkhand — and by extension, the State of Jharkhand — marks its silver jubilee, the resource rich state shines with its remarkable service to the cause of justice. As a land of rich natural beauty, vibrant tribal heritage, and industrious people, Jharkhand has and continues to be a symbol of resilience and cultural harmony. Formerly a bench of the Patna High Court and after creation of the State of Jharkhand, the High Court of Jharkhand has dispensed steadfast and inclusive justice while adhering to the core ideals of fairness and equity.

In these twenty-five years, the High Court has not only contributed significantly to the development of legal thought and jurisprudence but has also ensured that justice reaches even the remotest corners of the State. Its progressive judgments and a consistent humane touch have strengthened the faith of the people in the judiciary.

As the High Court enters a new chapter, I am confident that it will continue to uphold the constitutional values of liberty, equality, and justice, while embracing innovation and reforms to meet the challenges of present times.

On this momentous occasion, I convey my sincere appreciation to the Hon'ble the Chief Justice and distinguished Judges of the High Court, respected members of the judicial fraternity, esteemed members of the Bar, the diligent staff members and all others who have contributed to the growth and dignity of this acclaimed institution.

Dipankar Datta
[Dipankar Datta]





Justice Pankaj Mithal
Supreme Court of India



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31.10.2025

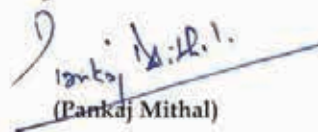
MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my warm felicitations to the Hon'ble Chief Justice, the Judges, members of the Bar, and all officers and staff of the High Court of Jharkhand on the auspicious occasion of its Silver Jubilee. The completion of twenty-five years is not merely a commemoration of time passed but a celebration of the High Court's steadfast commitment to the ideals of justice, equity, and constitutional morality.

Over the past twenty-five years, this High Court has been a cornerstone of justice. From its humble beginnings, it has grown into a robust institution, a final resort for citizens in their quest for justice. We recall the vision of our founding members and the dedication of all who have served this esteemed institution. This journey has been marked by numerous landmark judgments, the upholding of human rights, and a constant endeavour to ensure that the rule of law prevails. Through its reasoned pronouncements and progressive interpretation of statutes, the Court has shaped the legal landscape of Jharkhand and contributed meaningfully to the jurisprudence of our nation.

The growth of this institution is a reflection of the collective effort of the Bench and the Bar, whose shared dedication, learning, and integrity have been instrumental in maintaining public faith in the judicial system. The untiring contribution of the Court's administrative staff has also ensured that justice is delivered efficiently and with dignity, even in challenging circumstances.

As we mark this Silver Jubilee, it is also a time to look ahead with renewed purpose. Let us rededicate ourselves to the ideals of continuous learning, ethical service, and a fearless pursuit of justice. May the next twenty-five years be even more transformative, innovative and inspiring in the pursuit of justice.


(Pankaj Mithal)





Justice Sanjay Karol
Judge
Supreme Court of India



*16, Tagore Road,
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November 7, 2025



MESSAGE

On the proud and momentous occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the High Court of Jharkhand, I extend my warmest felicitations to the learned Chief Justice and his companion judges, the members of the Bar, the devoted officers of the Registry, and most essentially, the staff whose tireless efforts have, over twenty-five years, strengthened the foundations of justice in the State.

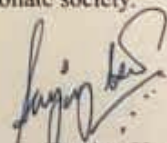
Since its establishment, the High Court has stood tall as a protector the rule of law and a steadfast guardian of constitutional values. The Court has contributed profoundly to the development of jurisprudence and to the deepening of democratic ideals. This position has only gone from strength to strength under the leadership of the current, dynamic Chief Justice. It has been, and must always remain, a temple of justice, where the law is interpreted singularly in the service of the people. It has well and truly carried on the rich legacy of its shared past with the High Court of Judicature at Patna, where, I too had the privilege of serving as the Chief Justice. That common heritage has endowed it with a deep respect for judicial tradition, scholarship, and institutional dignity. Yet, while drawing strength from its origins, the High Court has also forged its own path, with a distinctive jurisprudence attuned to the aspirations and realities of the State.

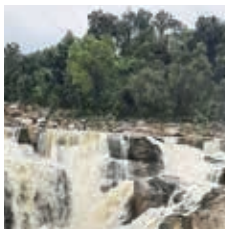
Justice, though delayed by the toil of human institutions, remains the most sacred expression of a society's conscience. A court must stand open- literally, through structures and systems that welcome all, and figuratively, through a spirit of empathy, clarity, and inclusiveness.

As the Court celebrates this silver milestone, it is both time to look forward as also to reflect. No journey is without missed opportunities and neither without its achievements. Growth lies in the delicate balance between the two.

Moving forward, let every act within this institution continue to be guided by the golden thread of the Constitution, which enshrines liberty, equality, and fraternity as the guiding stars of our Republic. In upholding its vision, the judiciary fulfils not only a constitutional duty but also a moral calling- to preserve the dignity of every human being and the faith of every citizen in the majesty of law.

May the High Court of Jharkhand continue to shine as a beacon of justice, wisdom, and constitutional faith, illuminating the path toward a more just and compassionate society.


(Sanjay Karol)





Justice Sanjay Kumar
Judge, Supreme Court of India



Bungalow No. 6,
Motilal Nehru Marg,
New Delhi-110011
Tel : 011-23013454
011-23011361

Date: 03.11.2025

Respected Chief Justice,

I reiterate my best wishes on the High Court of Jharkhand completing 25 years of its establishment and I am happy to hear that you will be releasing a Souvenir on this historic occasion. However, due to pressure of work, I regret to state that I am not in a position to send you a message to be published in the same. All the very best to you all!

with warm regards !

Yours sincerely,

Sanjay Kumar
[Justice Sanjay Kumar]

Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan
Chief Justice
High Court of Jharkhand
Ranchi - 834 004.





Ahsanuddin Amanullah

*Judge
Supreme Court of India*



*2, Teen Murti Marg,
New Delhi-110 011
Tel : 011-23016160
011-23016162*

MESSAGE

I am happy to note that the High Court of Jharkhand is observing its Silver Jubilee on 15th November, 2025. The occasion is a milestone in the High Court's journey of providing justice to and serving the people of the State of Jharkhand.

Since its establishment on 15th November, 2000, after functioning as a Circuit Bench of the Patna High Court from 6th March, 1972 and later as a Permanent Bench of that High Court from 8th April, 1976, the Jharkhand High Court and its distinguished Judges have embraced the ideals embodied in our Constitution.

I recall mention my personal association with this Court, having appeared numerous times before it, from the time it was a Permanent Bench of the Patna High Court as also after it became a full-fledged High Court.

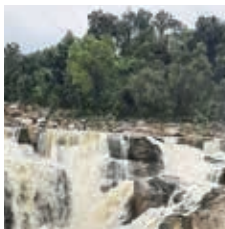
Having recently moved into a new location, the Jharkhand High Court is poised to make justice accessible to the people, aided by new technological tools.

I convey my best wishes to the learned Chief Justice, the learned Judges, Registry members, the learned advocates, the judicial officers serving in Jharkhand and the people of the State.

May the Jharkhand High Court keep the flag of justice flying high, by upholding the rule of law and by rendering justice in its truest sense.

Jai Hind!


[AHSANUDDIN AMANULLAH]





RAJESH BINDAL

Judge



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
TILAK MARG
NEW DELHI - 110 001

MESSAGE

I am profoundly gratified to learn that the High Court of Jharkhand is completing 25th year of its establishment, marking its Silver Jubilee-- a milestone that merits both celebration and solemn reflection. The High Court, situated in the very Manchester of the East, the beautiful city of Ranchi, serves as a beacon of justice not only for the whole of the state, but for the entire region, standing as a bulwark against arbitrariness and a temple of justice dedicated to the preservation of constitutional rights.

The jurisdiction of this region was earlier handled by the circuit bench of the Patna High Court. With the bifurcation of Jharkhand from the State of Bihar, the Jharkhand High Court at Ranchi was born, and it brought with it a new dawn of juridical independence. The creation of the High Court of Jharkhand embodied the birth of the state itself, symbolizing the inseparable bond between governance and justice, between power and restraint, between law in books and the law in action. From its inception, this Court has stood as a sentinel of constitutional rights, a steadfast guardian of the oppressed, and a beacon of hope for millions seeking redress, fairness, and the vindication of their fundamental freedoms.

This Silver Jubilee is not merely a celebration of the passage of time, but a tribute to the unwavering commitment to justice, constitutional values, and the rule of law that this esteemed institution has embodied over the past quarter century. It is a testament to the resilience of our democratic institutions and the sacred trust reposed in the judiciary by the people of Jharkhand.

Over these twenty-five years, the High Court has navigated complex and often uncharted legal landscapes, addressed critical issues affecting tribal rights, environmental protection, land rights, labour welfare, and social justice, and consistently upheld the dignity of every individual who has approached its portals seeking shelter of the law. The distinguished judges who have graced its bench have left an indelible legacy through their wisdom, scholarly erudition, integrity, and unswerving dedication to judicial excellence. Their judgments have not merely resolved disputes but have contributed to the evolution of jurisprudence, enriching the legal discourse of our nation.

Page 1 of 2

BUNGALOW NO. 2, AKBAR ROAD, NEW DELHI - 110011. TEL. NO. (011) 23018043





RAJESH BINDAL
Judge



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
TILAK MARG
NEW DELHI - 110 001

This historic occasion not only marks the achievements of the past but also reaffirms the collective commitment to strengthen and fortify the judicial system for future generations. The challenges that lie ahead – access to justice, judicial delays, technological integration, and protection of constitutional values in an ever-evolving society – demand renewed vigor and innovation.

May the High Court of Jharkhand continue to shine as a pillar of justice, serving the people with distinction, compassion, unwavering fidelity to constitutional ideals, and an abiding commitment to the protection of the weak and the marginalized.

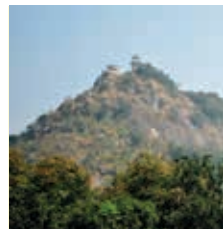
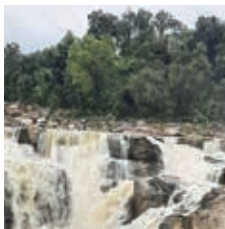
I extend my heartiest congratulations and felicitations to the entire fraternity of the Jharkhand High Court – to the Hon'ble Judges, the learned members of the Bar, the diligent officers, and the dedicated staff – on this momentous and auspicious occasion. May this institution continue to flourish and uphold the torch of justice for generations to come, remaining ever true to its sacred constitutional mandate.

With profound respect and best wishes.


RAJESH BINDAL

Page 2 of 2

BUNGALOW NO. 2, AKBAR ROAD, NEW DELHI - 110011 TEL. NO. (011) 23018043





Justice Aravind Kumar
Judge, Supreme Court of India

MESSAGE

I extend my heartfelt warm felicitations to the High Court of Jharkhand, Ranchi on the momentous occasion of its Silver Jubilee celebration. The completion of 25 glorious years marks not only a milestone in the Court's institutional journey but also reflects its unwavering commitment to uphold justice, fairness, and the rule of law. Over these years, the Court has served as a beacon of hope for litigants, a guardian of constitutional principles, and a cornerstone of faith in the justice delivery system.

The Court's remarkable journey is a testament to the vision, dedication, and integrity of all those who have been part of its evolution - the Hon'ble Judges who have adorned its bench, the members of the Bar who have diligently assisted in espousing the cause of justice, and the administrative staff who have ensured the smooth functioning of the institution. Together, they have contributed to the Court's enduring legacy of impartiality, efficiency, and empathy in adjudication. Through its progressive judgments and consistent pursuit of excellence, the Court has played a pivotal role in advancing both legal thought and social justice within its jurisdiction.

As the Court enters its next phase, this occasion offers an opportunity not only to celebrate past achievements but also to renew our collective resolve to strengthen the institution further. May the High Court of Jharkhand, Ranchi continue to uphold its noble traditions, adapt to the evolving demands of justice,



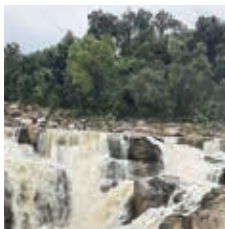


Justice Aravind Kumar
Judge, Supreme Court of India

and remain a symbol of fairness, wisdom, and compassion for generations to come. I convey my best wishes for its continued growth and success in the years ahead.

(Aravind Kumar)

New Delhi
November 05, 2025





Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra



*Judge,
Supreme Court of India
13, Akbar Road,
New Delhi-110011*

MESSAGE

To an institution that has stood strong with its adherence to the Constitution in letter and spirit, I congratulate and join in the momentous occasion of celebration of its silver jubilee. Ever since its inception on 15.11.2000, Jharkhand High Court has stood by its Constitutional duty of upholding Constitutional values and enforcement of individual rights, whether in times of global crisis like Covid-19 by way of judgments like ***Court on its own motion v. State of Jharkhand and Others***, and ***Jyoti Sharma v. State of Jharkhand***, ensuring safety and health of citizens, or by laying down regulations for protection of Parasnath Hill.

What started as an institution with minimal infrastructural facilities and human resource, with a Circuit Bench and a Permanent Bench at Patna High Court, has grown into an institution with state-of-the-art facilities, increasing accessibility to justice and serving in cause of unwavering dedication to delivery of justice.

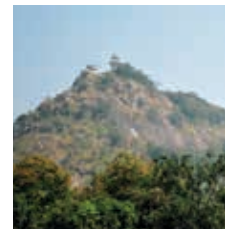
I congratulate for the efforts undertaken in increasing accessibility to justice, from meeting the needs of Adivasi population of Chota Nagpur region, to transforming to a beacon of hope in its steadfast contribution to addressing needs of litigants in the State of Jharkhand emerging from emergence of State of Jharkhand from reorganization of the State of Bihar.

These 25 years have been a testament to its contribution to the call for justice, substantiated by various landmark judgments.

I congratulate the citizens of the State and the entire legal fraternity in the silver jubilee celebration and applaud the efforts of the High Court which are underway to increase efficiency and accessibility of justice.

Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra
Judge, Supreme Court of India

New Delhi;
03rd November 2025.





S. V. N. Bhatti
Judge,
Supreme Court of India



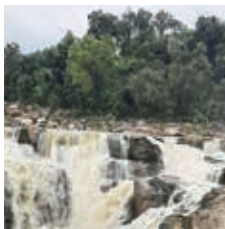
November 3, 2025

MESSAGE

In its 25 years, the High Court of Jharkhand has successfully carried forward the great legacy of the Indian judiciary, contributing significantly to the dispensation of justice. This Silver Jubilee is the laying of a firm foundation and the taking of a solemn oath for the Golden and Platinum Jubilee celebrations that lie ahead. The successful journey towards these future milestones depends fundamentally on the independence, integrity, and intelligence of the institution. These virtues are the very bedrock of the judiciary and the source of its strength and public confidence.

I am confident that the bar and the bench of the Jharkhand High Court, who possess these qualities in abundance, will continue to work cohesively to elevate this esteemed High Court to even greater heights and further strengthen the cause of justice for all.


(Justice S.V.N. Bhatti)





Augustine George Masih
Judge, Supreme Court of India

5, Tughlak Road
New Delhi - 110011



MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to convey my heartfelt wishes to the Hon'ble Judges, Members of the Bar, and staff of the High Court of Jharkhand on the joyous occasion of its Silver Jubilee.

The completion of twenty-five years marks a proud milestone in the illustrious journey of this institution. Since its inception, the High Court of Jharkhand has upheld the ideals of justice, fairness, and constitutional propriety with remarkable dedication. Through its judicious pronouncements and steadfast commitment to the rule of law, it has earned the respect and confidence of the people.

This occasion is also an opportunity to the invaluable contributions of all those who have served this institution with distinction. Their devotion to duty and integrity has shaped the High Court's enduring legacy.

I extend my warmest wishes for the continued growth and excellence of the High Court of Jharkhand. May it continue to shine as a beacon of justice and guardian of constitutional values in the years ahead.

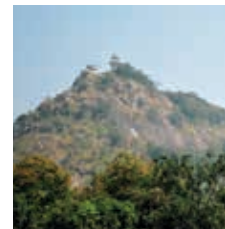
[AUGUSTINE GEORGE MASIH]

November 06, 2025

Phone : 011-23794771

E-mail : pstojusticeagmasih@gmail.com

| xxx |





SANDEEP MEHTA
JUDGE



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

MESSAGE

On the auspicious occasion of the High Court of Jharkhand completing twenty-five years of its inception, I extend my warmest felicitations to the Hon'ble Chief Justice, the esteemed Judges, the Members of the Bar, all officers, and staff of the High Court and the people of Jharkhand. This milestone marks a moment of pride and reflection on the institution's unwavering commitment to justice, fairness, and constitutional integrity in the State of Jharkhand.

Since its establishment, the High Court of Jharkhand has been a steadfast guardian of the Constitution of India—upholding its supremacy, protecting fundamental rights, and giving enduring meaning to the ideals enshrined in the Preamble: Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity. Through its judgments, the Court has not only shaped the legal and social fabric of the State but has also reinforced the rule of law as the bedrock of democracy.

The Constitution of India is a living testament to our collective aspiration for justice in all its dimensions—social, economic, and political. The judiciary, as its sentinel, bears the sacred duty of interpreting and applying its provisions with wisdom, empathy, and moral courage. In this noble pursuit, the guiding words of the Bhagavad Gita hold timeless relevance: **“कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन।”** — one is entitled only to the performance of duty, not to its fruits. The judiciary's quiet perseverance and devotion to duty, without fear or favour, truly embodies this eternal teaching.

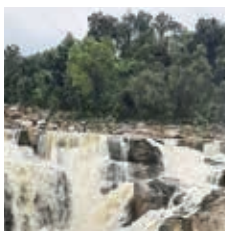
As the High Court of Jharkhand celebrates its Silver Jubilee, it stands as a shining example of constitutional morality and judicial independence. I am confident that the institution will continue to illuminate the path of justice with renewed vigour, guided by the wisdom of the Constitution and the spirit of righteous duty.

I extend my heartfelt best wishes for the continued progress, dignity, and glory of the High Court of Jharkhand in the years to come.


(SANDEEP MEHTA)

New Delhi;
November 02, 2025

7A, MOTILAL NEHRU MARG, NEW DELHI - 110011





Justice N. Kotiswar Singh

Judge



Supreme Court of India

New Delhi

Phone : 011-23113065 (Office)

MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my warm greetings and felicitations to the Hon'ble Chief Justice, Hon'ble Judges, Members of the Bar, Officers and staff of the High Court of Jharkhand on the momentous occasion of its silver jubilee.

The High Court of Jharkhand, established on 15th November 2000, carved its own identity following the creation of the State of Jharkhand. From its very inception, the Court has shouldered the responsibility of upholding the majesty of law and the sanctity of the Constitution, serving as the guardian of justice for the people of this mineral-rich yet socially complex region. This is a time not only for celebration, but also for reflection – on the path traversed, the challenges overcome, and the collective vision that continues to guide the institution towards the future.

Jharkhand, with its unique socio-economic landscape and large tribal population, presents before the judiciary an intricate web of legal and social issues – land rights, displacement, environmental protection, and equitable development, to name a few. Thus, in reflecting on the High Court's journey, one cannot ignore the broader constitutional mandate that guides all judicial institutions in our country – the pursuit of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. The role of the judiciary in a developing democracy like ours is not confined to the adjudication of disputes but extends to ensuring that the principles of constitutional morality permeate every sphere of governance and civil life. The High Court of Jharkhand, in its 25 years, has exemplified this role with distinction, often balancing competing interests of development and rights, growth and equity, progress and preservation.

It is heartening to note that the High Court of Jharkhand has also been proactive in adopting modern judicial practices, promoting technology-driven justice delivery, and embracing initiatives such as e-filing, video-conferencing, and the digitization of records.

Over the past twenty-five years, the High Court of Jharkhand has nurtured a proud tradition of judicial rectitude, intellectual rigour, and compassion. The Court has rendered several decisions that have contributed meaningfully to the development of law, while the Bar has played an indispensable role in upholding the traditions of advocacy and ethical practice. This partnership between the Bench and the Bar forms the backbone of a healthy judicial ecosystem, and it is indeed fitting that the Silver Jubilee celebrations honour both.

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email : pstohmjkotiswarsingh@gmail.com ; Ph : 011-23384438, 011-23077543

Mob. : 9811946384 (PS)





Justice N. Kotiswar Singh
Judge



Supreme Court of India
New Delhi
Phone : 011-23113065 (Office)

As we commemorate this milestone, it is equally important to acknowledge the silent but indispensable contributions of the registry officials, administrative staff, and all those who have worked behind the scenes to ensure the smooth functioning of the Court. Their diligence and dedication form the bedrock upon which the institution rests. An efficient and compassionate judicial administration reflects not only the wisdom of its Judges but also the commitment of its entire workforce.

As we look to the future, the challenges before the judiciary remain formidable. The increasing complexity of legal disputes, the growing expectations of the public, and the need to maintain the delicate balance between judicial activism and restraint require constant vigilance and introspection. The High Court of Jharkhand, like all constitutional courts, must continue to adapt to these evolving realities while remaining steadfast in its commitment to fairness, impartiality, and integrity.

I am confident that under the able leadership of the present Chief Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan Ji, and the collective wisdom of its Judges, the High Court will continue to uphold its glorious traditions while embracing innovation and inclusivity in the administration of justice. I also hope that the legal fraternity in Jharkhand will continue to assist the Court with erudition and a sense of professional duty, ensuring that justice remains not only done but seen to be done.

The Silver Jubilee of the High Court of Jharkhand is, therefore, not just an occasion to commemorate the past but to renew our shared commitment to the ideals of justice. May this milestone inspire all stakeholders—Judges, lawyers, and citizens alike—to rededicate themselves to the noble cause of ensuring that the rule of law remains the firm foundation of our democratic polity.

On this joyous occasion, I extend my best wishes to the High Court of Jharkhand for continued excellence in the years to come. May it scale greater heights in its service to justice and to the people of Jharkhand.

[JUSTICE N. KOTISWAR SINGH]

New Delhi
November 06, 2025

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email: pstohmjkotiswarsingh@gmail.com ; Ph : 011-23384438, 011-23077543
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K. Vinod Chandran
Judge
Supreme Court of India



6, Taghlok Road,
New Delhi - 110011
Tel. : 011-23793479, 23793583



7th November, 2025

MESSAGE

The Jharkhand High Court, established in the year 2000, on the bifurcation of the State of Bihar has the legacy of the rich tapestry of decisions of the Patna High Court. The High Court has been functioning from the new complex at Dhurwa, Ranchi, spread across 165 acres. It is a matter of pride for the Patna High Court also that the initially established Circuit Bench at Ranchi which was later given the status of a Permanent Bench from the year 1976 was the precursor of the High Court.

The Jharkhand High Court after its inception has carried on the rich traditions of the Indian judiciary and has enriched the arena of judicial pronouncements with erudition and vision. The enlightened Bar too has contributed to the reputation of the High Court.

It is my pleasure and privilege to wish the High Court of Jharkhand, its Chief Justice and the Hon'ble Judges on the successful completion of 25 years. I am sure that the High Court will move forward, ensuring to the citizens their rights in accordance with law and enabling all the stakeholders to perform their duties with dignity.

Thank you.

With Best Regards

[K. Vinod Chandran]





Justice Joymalya Bagchi
Judge
Supreme Court of India



7, Tughlak Road
New Delhi-110 011
Tel. : 011-23014435



3rd November, 2025

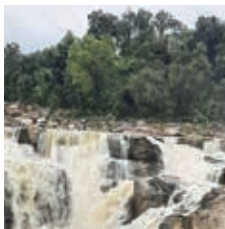
MESSAGE

As the Jharkhand High Court celebrates its Silver Jubilee, it is a moment of great pride to reflect upon its remarkable journey. Since its establishment on 15th November 2000 upon the creation of the State of Jharkhand, the Court, under the able stewardship of eminent Chief Justices and distinguished judges has served the cause of justice with distinction and integrity.

On a personal note, though I did not serve on the Bench of the Jharkhand High Court, my association with the Court has been deep and varied. I had the privilege of arguing as a counsel before the Court during its formative decade and, in later years, of participating as a resource person in the various symposiums and workshops organized by the Court. These experiences have deepened my respect for this institution and its unwavering commitment to the ideals of justice.

The notable judicial pronouncements of the Court bear testimony to its vital contribution to the development of various branches of law, both within the State and, in many respects, across the nation. Through its decisions, the Court has advanced constitutional interpretation, protected the rights of tribal communities, safeguarded the environment, and reinforced faith in the rule of law. As the institution enters this milestone year, I am confident that the High Court will continue its steadfast march to gloriously serve the nation and deliver justice to one and all, particularly to the marginalised and underprivileged, for many years to come.

Joymalya Bagchi
[JOYMALYA BAGCHI]





Vijay Bishnoi
Judge
Supreme Court of India



E-mail : pstojusticehmjvb@gmail.com



31st October, 2025

MESSAGE

I am delighted to learn that the High Court of Jharkhand, Ranchi, will be releasing a Souvenir to commemorate the completion of twenty-five glorious years of its inception on 15th November, 2025. It is heartening to know that this Souvenir will beautifully capture and document the remarkable journey and achievements of the High Court of Jharkhand over the last two and a half decades.

As we all know, a Circuit Bench of the Patna High Court was established at Ranchi with effect from 6th March 1972, under Clause 36 of the Letters Patent of that High Court. The Bench was established to meet the needs of the Adivasi population of the Chota Nagpur area in the erstwhile State of Bihar. The High Court of Jharkhand came into existence after the reorganization of the State of Bihar into the present States of Bihar and Jharkhand on 15th November, 2000. The High Court of Jharkhand plays a vital role in upholding justice, safeguarding the Constitution, and ensuring the rule of law within the State.

On this momentous occasion, I am confident that the Souvenir will enlighten readers about the High Court's challenging history as well as the milestones it has achieved over the years. I extend my warm wishes to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the High Court of Jharkhand and the distinguished team members in their continued pursuit of peace, equality, and justice for all.

(Vijay Bishnoi)

W-22, Supreme Court of India, Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001





Alok Aradhe
Judge
Supreme Court of India



Flat No. A-6, Tower-A1,
DDU Marg, New Delhi-110002
Tel. : 011-23210071

MESSAGE

I heartily congratulate all the stake holders on completion of Twenty Five Years of inception of the High Court of Jharkhand, Ranchi.

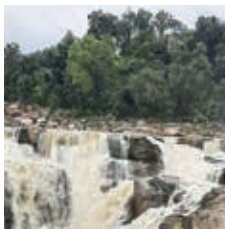
High Court of Jharkhand has carved out a distinct identity for itself by delivering several landmark decisions since its formation. Through all these years, it has served to the cause of justice and advanced the measures for reforms, both, in the justice delivery system, and the judiciary.

This is indeed a big moment for the High Court and all the people associated with it. I extend my heartiest wishes and warm regards, once again, to everyone on the occasion of the Jharkhand High Court's twenty-fifth anniversary. Over the last quarter century, the Court has steadfastly upheld the rule of law and delivered justice with dedication and integrity.

May it continue to serve the cause of justice and the people of Jharkhand with distinction.


(Alok Aradhe)

New Delhi;
November 10, 2025.





JUSTICE VIPUL M. PANCHOLI
JUDGE
SUPREME COURT OF INDIA



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
TILAK MARG
NEW DELHI-110 001
PHONE : 011-23016420

07.11.2025

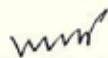
MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my warm greetings and best wishes to the Hon'ble Chief Justice, Judges, Members of the Bar, and the Officers and Staff of the High Court of Jharkhand on the momentous occasion of its Silver Jubilee.

Over the past twenty-five years, the High Court of Jharkhand has stood as a beacon of justice and constitutional faith, ensuring accessible, equitable, and expeditious justice to the people of the State. Through its reasoned pronouncements and compassionate approach, the Court has strengthened the rule of law, protected fundamental rights, and upheld the ideals of justice, fairness, and equality enshrined in our Constitution.

This milestone stands as a tribute to the collective wisdom, commitment, and dedication of all who have contributed to upholding the dignity and efficiency of this esteemed institution.

As the High Court celebrates twenty-five glorious years of dedicated service to the cause of justice, I convey my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes. May it continue to move from strength to strength, embracing innovation while upholding tradition, and remain forever a steadfast beacon of justice, inspiring generations to come.


(Vipul Manubhai Pancholi)

Res.: A-8, Tower A-1, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110 002





अर्जुन राम मेघवाल
Arjun Ram Meghwal



सत्यमेव जयते

विधि एवं न्याय राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)

संसदीय कार्य राज्य मंत्री

भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली-110001

MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) FOR LAW & JUSTICE

AND

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, NEW DELHI-110001

संदेश

मुझे यह जानकर हार्दिक प्रसन्नता हुई कि मजबूत न्यायिक प्रक्रिया, निष्पक्ष निर्णय एवं न्याय को सभी के लिए सुलभ बनाने के प्रति अद्वैत प्रतिबद्धता के साथ अपनी गौरवशाली 25 वर्षों की यात्रा पूर्ण करके झारखण्ड उच्च न्यायालय 15 नवंबर को अपना रजत जयंती समारोह आयोजित कर रहा है। भगवान विरसा मुंडा की जयंती के साथ ही झारखण्ड राज्य और राज्य उच्च न्यायालय की स्थापना का यह दिन हमें न्याय, समानता और संवैधानिक मूल्यों की साझा विरासत की याद दिलाता है। झारखण्ड उच्च न्यायालय द्वारा राज्य के नागरिकों, विशेषकर जनजातीय समुदाय और समाज के वंचित वर्गों के लोगों के लिए सरल, सुलभ और सहज न्याय सुनिश्चित करके उनके मन में न्याय के प्रति विश्वास उत्पन्न किया गया है जो इस उच्च न्यायालय से जुड़े सक्षम न्यायविदों एवं सहायक कर्मचारियों की अप्रतिम निष्ठा, समर्पण तथा सतत प्रयासों और अनुभवों का परिणाम है। राज्य की इस सर्वोच्च न्याय संस्था ने अपनी स्थापना के बाद से राज्य में विधि के शासन को सुदृढ़ बनाने की दिशा में निरंतर उल्लेखनीय योगदान किया है। इस उच्च न्यायालय द्वारा कानून की गरिमा को बनाए रखते हुए न्यायिक विरासत से महत्वपूर्ण मामलों में लिए गए निर्णय राज्य ही नहीं अपितु देश की न्यायपालिका में भी नील के पत्थर सिद्ध हुए हैं।

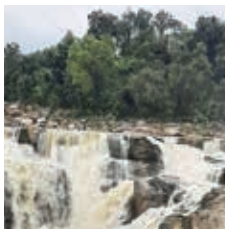
मुझे ज्ञात हुआ है कि न्यायिक प्रक्रिया में पारदर्शिता और दक्षता लाने तथा सामान्य जनों के लिए न्याय सुलभ कराने के दृष्टिगत झारखण्ड उच्च न्यायालय में ई.कोर्ट, वर्चुअल हियरिंग और 'न्याय बंधु पैनल' जैसी डिजिटल पहल भी की गई है। यह पहल आज के इस परिवर्तनशील व प्रौद्योगिकीय विकास के दौर में न्याय व्यवस्था के लिए नवाचार, निष्पक्षता और उत्कृष्टता को बढ़ावा देने की दिशा में उठाया गया एक अत्यंत सराहनीय कदम है। राज्य की इस सर्वोच्च न्याय संस्था से जुड़े पिढान न्यायाधीशों ने सामान्य जनों के लिए न्याय को सुलभ तथा पारदर्शी बनाकर हमारे माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी द्वारा परिकल्पित विकसित भारत की विकास यात्रा में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान किया है। यह रजत जयंती समारोह उन न्यायाधीशों की न्याय निष्ठा और उनके योगदान को सम्मानित करने का उत्सव है। इस पुनीत अवसर पर मैं इस उच्च न्यायालय के मुख्य न्यायाधीश माननीय न्यायमूर्ति श्री तरलोक सिंह चौहान तथा अन्य सभी माननीय न्यायाधीशों, अधिकारियों एवं समस्त न्यायिक कर्मचारियों को अपनी हार्दिक बधाई और शुभकामनाएं देता हूँ।

मुझे खुशी है कि झारखण्ड उच्च न्यायालय के रजत जयंती समारोह के अवसर पर इसकी गौरवशाली गाथा व परंपराओं को संजोए हुए एक स्मारिका का प्रकाशन भी किया जा रहा है जिसमें राज्य की न्यायिक प्रणाली के निर्माण में इस न्याय संस्था की भूमिका को प्रतिबिंबित किया जाएगा। मैं इस स्मारिका के सफल प्रकाशन की कामना करता हूँ। मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि आने वाले वर्षों में यह उच्च न्यायालय अपनी गौरवशाली परंपरा को आगे बढ़ाते हुए संविधान की मर्यादा के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता के साथ समाज में न्याय, समानता और विधि के शासन की स्थापना में अतुल्य योगदान करके देश की विकास यात्रा की गति तीव्रतर करने में अपनी अग्रणी भूमिका का निर्वहन करता रहेगा।

शुभकामनाओं सहित,

(अर्जुन राम मेघवाल)

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E-mail: mjooffice@gov.in/arjunrammeghwal@gmail.com





JUSTICE APARESH KR. SINGH
CHIEF JUSTICE



HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA
Madina Circle, Ghansi Bazar, Hyderabad - 500 066.
Phone : Off : 040 - 2344 6333.

MESSAGE



I feel proud that Jharkhand High Court is going to commemorate twenty five years of its glorious existence on November 15, 2025. Jharkhand is a state richly endowed with not only mineral resources but also its simple hard working people and the rich bio-diversity of flora and fauna which earns its name.

From being a Circuit Bench of the Patna High Court since 6th March, 1972 to becoming a Permanent Bench w.e.f. 8.4.1976 and thereafter on 15th November, 2000 when the Jharkhand High Court was established on reorganisation of the State of Bihar, it has travelled momentous journey sparked with distinguished contributions towards the evolution of Constitutional Law and service to vast needy and deserving population of the State. In this eventful journey the High Court of Jharkhand has produced Judges of eminence and distinguished lawyers who have nurtured and shaped the growth of this hallowed institution to the present day. It has earned a distinct space amongst the illustrious company of the leading High Courts of this country.

Jharkhand High Court has symbolised the true spirit of an independent judiciary fully committed to the guiding principles enshrined in the Constitution of India. Its foundations are built upon by the sheer devotion, hard work and sacrifice of not only the eminent members of the judiciary and legal profession but also by the committed and strong work force comprising the Registry and the staff in particular who often go unnoticed.

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JUSTICE APARESH KR. SINGH
CHIEF JUSTICE



HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA
Madina Circle, Ghansi Bazar, Hyderabad - 500 066,
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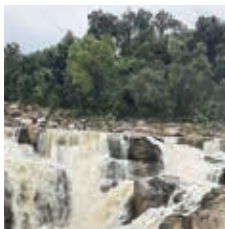
I am truly privileged to be a small part in the illustrious journey of the Jharkhand High Court. My own career as a lawyer and as a Judge has been shaped by ennumorous visible and invisible forces comprising the eco-system of the State judiciary to whom I always owe a deep sense of gratitude.

As we complete twenty five years of the existence of the High Court of Jharkhand, I pay my respectful tribute to the judges, lawyers, staff and all those associated with the High Court and also those who are no more today. It is because of their efforts that we have travelled this far with great distinction.

I am sure with the collective efforts and contributions of all stakeholders the High Court of Jharkhand will achieve several milestones in its spectacular journey forward and scale greater heights. It will continue to shine as a beacon light of justice to the people of the State.

November 7th, 2025
Hyderabad.


Justice Aparesk Kumar Singh





JUSTICE M.S. RAMACHANDRA RAO
CHIEF JUSTICE



सत्यमेव जयते

MESSAGE

HIGH COURT OF TRIPURA
Agartala, Ph: 0381-2413514(O)

I am happy to note that the Silver Jubilee of the Jharkhand High Court is to be held on 15.11.2025 and a commemorative Souvenir is being brought out on this occasion.

The High Court at Jharkhand was established on 15th November, 2000 following the bifurcation of the State of Bihar and it succeeded the jurisdiction previously exercised by the Patna High Court.

Prior thereto a Circuit Bench of the Patna High Court used to function at Ranchi from 6.3.1972 and it later it became a permanent Bench w.e.f 8.4.1976.

It was functioning previously in an old building at Doranda in Ranchi, but in view of the growing case load and limited capacity, the State Government allotted land admeasuring 165 Acres at Dhurwa in which construction of the new High Court complex commenced in 2015.

After 8 years, on 24.5.2023, the High Court began functioning from the newly constructed complex at Dhurwa, Ranchi with all modern amenities after inauguration by Her Excellency the President of India Droupadi Murmu ji.

I had the privilege to be the Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court for 10 months from 25.9.2024 to 21.7.2025.

The publication of this Souvenir capturing the history, developments, accomplishments and achievements of the Jharkhand High Court, is a great initiative. It will enable all stake holders to look with pride and happiness to what all has been accomplished till date and also to encourage them to continue their good work.

This occasion serves as a moment to not only reminisce about the past but also to continue efforts to secure a better future.

I congratulate all the members of the Bench and the Bar, Staff and Judicial officers associated with the High Court, both past and present , on the occasion of this Silver Jubilee and I wish them the best for all future endeavours.

I appeal to all stake holders –Judges, lawyers, staff and litigants- to work together to uphold the sanctity of the Judiciary. The strength and credibility of our Judicial system lies in it's ability to meet the hopes and aspirations of the common man, ensuring fairness and equality for all. They should make all efforts to ensure that justice prevails, trust is maintained, and the scales of justice remain balanced.

31.10.2025

M.S. Ramachandra Rao
Justice M.S.Ramachandra Rao

Res.: Chief Justice Bungalow, New Capital Complex, Agartala-799006, West Tripura.





Shree Chandrashekhar
Chief Justice



Chief Justice House,
14, Narayan Dabholkar Road,
Malabar Hill,
Mumbai - 400 006.
Tel. : 022-23631650

MESSAGE

The High Court of Jharkhand has entered its Silver Jubilee year and would be completing Twenty-five glorious years of its establishment. This is indeed a milestone in the journey of the Institution of High Court. A Silver Jubilee is not merely a celebration of the passage of time, it is a moment to rejoice the collective achievements of the High Court, to reflect on the challenges and to express heartfelt gratitude to all those who have contributed to its growth, progress and success. This is also an occasion for introspection, reminding us that every Institution must pause and look within to strengthen its foundation for the future.

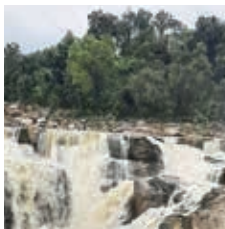
Since its inception, the High Court of Jharkhand has been served by many distinguished jurists and legal luminaries, both from the Bar and Bench. Over the years, it has earned a well-deserved reputation for upholding the highest standards of judicial integrity and fairness. The High Court has played a vital role in advancing the Constitutional values and ensuring that justice is delivered to every person in the State.

As my parent High Court, I have had the honour and privilege of serving this Court for more than 10 years, and I cherish those years remembering the dedication and deep sense of purpose with which this High Court serves the people of Jharkhand. I am proud and elated to be a part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations. I am confident that with the collective wisdom of the Hon'ble Judges and the members of the Bar, the High Court of Jharkhand will continue to reach greater heights in the administration of justice all over the State. May this Celebrations reinforce a renewed commitment to the noble ideals of justice, compassion and service.

I wish the Silver Jubilee Celebrations a grand success. I am sure that the High Court of Jharkhand would continue to serve the people and the cause of justice, in future.


[Shree Chandrashekhar]
Chief Justice

November 6, 2025





Justice (Retd.) S. J. Mukhopadhyaya

Former Judge, Supreme Court of India
& Former Chairperson
National Company Law Appellate Tribunal

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MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure to convey my heartfelt congratulations to the High Court of Jharkhand, Ranchi, on this momentous occasion of completing 25 years of its establishment.

On this joyous occasion marking 25 years of a remarkable journey and achievement, I feel deeply honoured and humbled to be a part of this celebration. It is indeed a matter of great pride and reflection, a time to pay tribute to the vision, commitment, and tireless efforts of all who have nurtured and strengthened this noble institution.

The journey of this institution, since its inception on the 15th of November 2000, has been a testament to the enduring ideals of justice, integrity, and service to the people of Jharkhand. Over the years, the Hon'ble High Court has not only upheld constitutional values but has also played a vital role in the evolution of jurisprudence and in reinforcing the faith of the people in the rule of law.

Having had the privilege to serve as a Judge of this Hon'ble Court, I hold with deep affection the memories of my time here, memories of the unflinching dedication of the Bench and the Bar, and of their collective commitment to ensuring that justice remains accessible, fair, and humane.

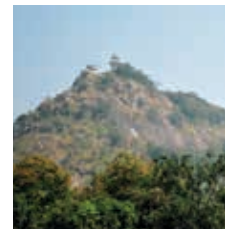
As the Court celebrates this silver jubilee milestone, I extend my respectful greetings and best wishes to all the Hon'ble Judges, Members of the Bar, Officers, and Staff of the High Court. May this institution continue to stand as a beacon of justice and righteousness, guiding future generations to uphold the dignity of law and protect the rights of every citizen with compassion, courage, and humility.

With warm regards and earnest wishes for continued excellence,

Siddhanta Jyoti Mukhopadhyaya
(Justice S. J. Mukhopadhyaya)

Former Judge, Supreme Court of India

Residence:- 3rd Floor, Block C-120, Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110 024.





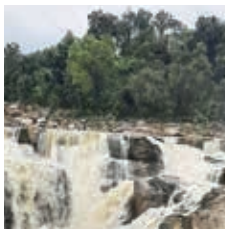
Justice P.K. Balasubramanyan
Former Judge,
Supreme Court of India

MESSAGE

As the second Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court, the High Court has a special place in my heart. I believe, with unstinted support of my brother judges and cooperation of the registry and the staff, I could put in place some system in the working of that court. I exhort the members of the bar who gave us unreserved support then, to keep up the high standards of that court by their continued devotion to the institution and their total commitment to the noble profession.

My best wishes to all on the institution celebrating its Silver Jubilee.

(Justice P. K. Balasubramanyan)





Justice Gyan Sudha Misra
Former Judge,
Supreme Court of India

Justice Gyan Sudha Misra
(Former Judge, Supreme Court of India)

D-78, Panchsheel Enclave,
New Delhi 110017
Phone No- 9560306565
011- 26494495

I'm immensely delighted to know that the High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi having completed 25 years of its glorious existence as full-fledged High Court of the State, is celebrating Silver Jubilee on 15th November 2025.

Having had the privilege of functioning as the 1st lady Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court for a few years, it fills me with tremendous pleasure to be a part of this historic occasion.

I extend my heartiest greetings for the success of the event and express my best wishes to this great institution for contributing to the cause of justice for posterity.

(Justice) Gyan sudha Misra
(Former Judge, Supreme Court of India)

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Aniruddha Bose

Former Judge, Supreme Court of India

Director

National Judicial Academy



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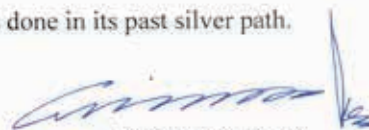


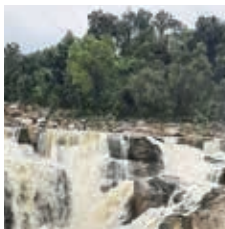
Dated: 8th November, 2025

MESSAGE

For a Court, or for that matter any institution, everyday provides an opportunity to excel. It is only on a special occasion like the 25th anniversary of its inception, one gets a chance to look back at the journey. For the High Court of Jharkhand - members of the Bar and the Bench - it can only lead to celebration. I have been fortunate to have been a part of its journey. When I reflect on my time at this High Court, it brings back fond and happy memories. This Court is uniquely steeped in legal traditions like other legacy High Courts, and is also an architect of innovation and reform in the administration of justice. The quality of the Bar here has been exceptional, and relationship with the Bench has been harmonious and constructive. I always received full support from my colleagues; two of whom are now presiding over two important High Courts of our country. Such support was both at the intellectual level and in administrative matters. In quarter of a century, this High Court has made significant contributions to the cause of justice.

The public expectations from the judiciary in India is exponentially rising. I am confident that all the three stakeholders of this High Court – the Bench, the Bar and the Registry – will meet these expectations like it has done in its past silver path.


(Aniruddha Bose)



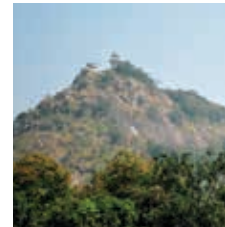


Justice Nelavoy Dhinakar
Former Chief Justice,
High Court of Jharkhand

MESSAGE

It is a deeply moving moment to join you all in celebrating the Silver Jubilee of the Jharkhand High Court. Twenty-five years ago, this Court began its journey with hope and purpose, and today it stands tall as a guardian of justice and constitutional values. When I had the honour of serving as Chief Justice in 2005 - 2006, I witnessed not only the zeal of a young institution but also the warmth and camaraderie that defined our judicial family. I fondly recall the spirited discussions in chambers, the tireless efforts of the Bar, and the unwavering support of colleagues who believed in building something enduring for this new state. Those experiences remain etched in my heart. As we celebrate this milestone, let us renew our pledge to uphold justice with compassion, humility, and courage. My heartfelt congratulations to everyone who shaped this remarkable legacy.

(Justice Nelavoy Dhinakar)





JUSTICE M.KARPAGA VINAYAGAM

Former Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court &
Former Chair Person of Appellate Tribunal for Electricity,
Petroleum & Natural Gas, New Delhi

SENIOR ADVOCATE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

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MESSAGE

At the outset, I shall convey my Namaskaram and Vanakkam to you and to the Judges of our Hon'ble High Court.

I feel immensely happy to receive your letter dated 31.10.2025 requesting me to send a message so that the same could be published in the Souvenir to be released on 15.11.2025 to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of our High Court which will be completing 25 years of inception.

Of course, it is the historically significant occasion for our High Court. I cherish the memories of my experience and discharging my duty as the Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court for about 18 months.

Recently I was also invited to participate in the function of opening of the Mammoet New Building at Ranchi. During the 18 months tenure, I enjoyed the environment and cooperation extended by my colleagues as well as the entire bar.

During that time, I was able to render lot of judgments in the Public Interest Litigations giving directions to the State Government for ensuring improvement for the state as well as for the maintenance of law and order situation in the whole State.

More than the cooperation of the bar, myself and my wife enjoyed cool climate and visited so many famous temples as well as the water falls.

Particularly I enjoyed the functions and celebrations took place in Jamshedpur which is the very famous place.

I pray for the success of the Silver Jubilee celebration to be held on 15.11.2025.

Please forgive me for my inability to give my consent to attend the said function. As you requested, I am also sending my photograph alongwith this letter.

Sincerely I pray SATHYA SAi BABA to bless your family and for the success of the function and our brother judges of our High Court as well as the Bar members.

WITH WARM REGARDS

(Justice M. Karpaga Vinayagam)

OFFICE-CUM-RESIDENCE
D4, III FLOOR, JANGPURA EXTENSION, NEW DELHI - 110 014

| xlix |





Justice (Ret.) Prakash Tatia

*Former Chief Justice,
Jharkhand High Court*

(Former)

*Judge, Rajasthan High Court, Jodhpur,
Chairperson, Armed Forces Tribunal,
New Delhi,
Chairperson, Raj. State Human Rights
Commission, Jaipur.*

Date:- 7th Nov. 2025

Mr. Justice Tarlok Sing Ji

*Hon'ble Chief Justice
Jharkhand High Court,*

Namaskar,

It is a matter of great satisfaction to learn that the *High Court of Jharkhand* is celebrating the completion of twenty-five years of its establishment. I extend my warm greetings and felicitations to the Hon'ble Chief Justice, Judges, Members of Judicial Services, Members of the Bar, Members of the Registry, officers, and staff of the High Court on this memorable occasion.

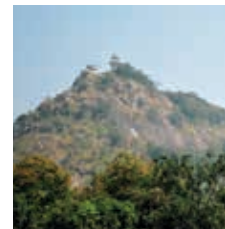
A Silver Jubilee is not merely a celebration of longevity; it is a moment for reflection on an institution's journey — its challenges, achievements, and its continuing mission. Over the past 25 years, the High Court of Jharkhand has emerged as a vibrant guardian of justice and constitutional values. Through its judgments and its steadfast adherence to the rule of law, it has given voice to the marginalised and protected citizens' rights.

The temple of justice draws its sanctity not from stone and structure but from the purity of purpose that animates its functioning. Every Judge, lawyer, and court officer is a trustee of this great public faith. The enduring strength of an institution lies in the integrity, compassion, and commitment with which it serves society.

All the above strengthened my efforts to secure land for the new High Court Building, plan its construction, execute the work during my short tenure in the Jharkhand High Court, including the construction of a new building for the Judicial Academy, and allotment of a building for the Jharkhand Bar Council.

On this occasion of the completion of twenty-five years of establishment of the Jharkhand High Court, I again extend my gratefulness to the Hon'ble Chief Justice Mr. Tarlok Singh Chauhan, sister and brother judges, and former judges of

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the Jharkhand High Court, who gave me one of the best life experiences in Jharkhand. The entire Bar was very cordial and cooperative. I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Registry and the judges of the trial courts for their cooperation.

I am confident, the Jharkhand judiciary, as it is, will always firmly and fearlessly uphold constitutional values, maintain its independence and impartiality to protect the rights of citizens, and provide speedy and affordable justice to all with sensitivity and empathy.

Thank you very much.

Date:- 7th Nov., 2025

Sincerely,

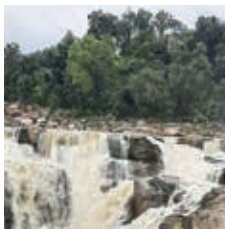
Justice Prakash Tatia

*Former Chief Justice,
Jharkhand High Court, Ranchi*

Mr. Justice Tarlok Sing Ji

*Hon'ble Chief Justice,
Jharkhand High Court, Ranchi, 834004*

123, Kanishka Resorts, DPS-Sangaria Bypass Road, Pal, Jodhpur- 3420013
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JUSTICE VIRENDER SINGH

Former Chief Justice, High Court of Jharkhand
Former Chairperson, Armed Forces Tribunal



MESSAGE

It is with immense pride and profound satisfaction that I extend my heartfelt greetings on the historic occasion of the completion of twenty-five glorious years of the High Court of Jharkhand, Ranchi, on 15th November 2025.

The journey of this august institution is deeply rooted in the aspirations of the people of this region. Long before the creation of the State of Jharkhand, the Ranchi Bench of the Patna High Court was established as a circuit bench in 1972, later becoming a permanent bench in 1976. This bench served as the fountainhead of justice for the people of Chotanagpur and Santhal Pargana, laying the foundation for what would eventually become the High Court of Jharkhand.

With the bifurcation of Bihar and the creation of the State of Jharkhand on 15th November 2000, the High Court of Jharkhand came into existence. The establishment of a new High Court was both a challenge and an opportunity. It was a challenge to build its own identity, reputation, and integrity in the justice delivery system, and an opportunity to serve the people of Jharkhand with renewed vigor and commitment.


Over the past twenty-five years, the High Court has risen to this challenge with remarkable success. Successive Chief Justices, along with their esteemed brother and sister judges, have contributed their wisdom, dedication, and legal acumen to strengthen the institution. Their collective efforts have ensured that the High Court of Jharkhand has earned a place of respect and recognition among the High Courts of our nation.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the present Chief Justice and all the sitting judges of this Court for their tireless commitment to justice. Under their able leadership, the Court has made significant strides in enhancing access to justice, embracing technology, and upholding constitutional values. The progress achieved in these twenty-five years is a testament to the resilience, vision, and dedication of all who have served this institution.

As we celebrate this silver jubilee milestone, I express my firm belief that the High Court of Jharkhand will continue to scale new heights in the years to come. May it remain a beacon of justice, fairness, and integrity and may it lead by example among the High Courts of our country.

On this momentous occasion, I extend my warmest congratulations to the members of the Bar, the Registry, and all stakeholders of the justice delivery system who have contributed to the growth and prestige of this institution.

With best wishes for the continued glory of the High Court of Jharkhand.


Justice Virender Singh
Former Chief Justice
High Court of Jharkhand





Justice Pradip Ku. Mohanty

Former Chief Justice, High Court
of Jharkhand, Ranchi & Former
Judicial Member, LOKPAL.



Residence:

Old College Lane,
Near R.N.T., Nimchouri, Cuttack - 753002
Ph : (0671) 2508000
(0671) 2368050

MESSAGE

*It gives me immense pleasure to learn that the High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi is completing twenty-five (25) years of its establishment on 15th November, 2025, and is celebrating its “Silver Jubilee” on this auspicious occasion. To commemorate this momentous milestone, the Court is also proposing to release a **Souvenir**.*

Established on November 15, 2000, the High Court of Jharkhand has completed twenty-five remarkable years of dedicated service to the cause of justice. This milestone is a testament to the collective efforts and unwavering commitment of everyone associated with this Temple of Justice. Over the past two and a half decades, the High Court has been a pillar of democracy, upholding the rule of law, protecting fundamental rights, and dispensing justice to the people of Jharkhand. This remarkable journey has been made possible through the hard work of its esteemed Judges, dedication of judicial officers, and perseverance of committed legal fraternity & the staff.

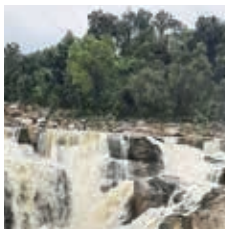
People of the State of Jharkhand are very simple, affectionate and warm-hearted. During my short tenure as Acting Chief Justice & Chief Justice of this noble institution, I had received a lot of love, affection and respect, besides full cooperation from the Members of the Bar. I felt like it was my second home.

As we celebrate this “Silver Jubilee”, it is an opportune time to strengthen our resolve towards creating mechanisms that reduce case backlogs, discourage frivolous litigations and make our legal system more efficient, transparent, and equitable. May this Jubilee mark the beginning of a new era of greater achievements and continued dedication to addressing the challenges of our time — ensuring that justice remains swift, fair & accessible to every citizen, especially the most vulnerable. May the High Court of Jharkhand continue to illuminate the path of justice for many generations to come.

On the momentous occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the High Court of Jharkhand, I extend my heartfelt greetings and profound respect to the Hon'ble Chief Justice, Judges, Members of the Bar, Judicial Officers, and Staff Members, without whose efforts the onerous task could not have been accomplished.

*May **Lord Jagannath** bless the celebration and Souvenir with grand success.*

(PRADIP KUMAR MOHANTY)





Justice Dr. Ravi Ranjan
*Former Chief Justice, Jharkhand High Court
Member, Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal*



*A-Wing, 4th Floor,
Janpath Bhawan, Janpath,
New Delhi-110001*



MESSAGE

I am delighted to learn that the High Court of Jharkhand is celebrating 25th year of its establishment.

The incredible journey of 25 years is dotted with remarkable accomplishments of the High Court, its unwavering commitment to the principles of justice and rule of law and a deep seated desire to serve the people of Jharkhand. Over the past quarter century, the High Court of Jharkhand has played a pivotal role in safeguarding the rights of citizens, ensuring speedy and effective justice to all and upholding the ideals and objectives enshrined in our Constitution.

As the thirteenth Chief Justice of the High Court of Jharkhand from 17th November 2019 to 19th December 2022, I was involved in its affairs from very close quarters and with immense pride I can say that it has blossomed into an effective and formidable pillar of democracy. I am thankful to the Almighty for providing me the opportunity to serve the people of Jharkhand and be a part of this beautiful journey of twenty-five years.

As the High Court of Jharkhand embarks on the next chapter of its journey, we are reminded that our work is far from complete. We must continue to strive hard and forge ahead in our commitment to ensure social and economic justice for all. I am confident that with its deep and solid foundations laid over the last twenty-five years, the High Court of Jharkhand will continue to work for the speedy and efficacious administration of justice and thereby meeting the hopes and aspirations of the people of Jharkhand.

I once again convey my best wishes to each and every member of the legal fraternity of the State of Jharkhand on this historic occasion.

Jai Hind

*Present Address : 2H/9, Ananda Nilayam, Bahadurpur Housing Colony, Mahatma Gandhi Nagar,
Opposite New Green Park, Kanti Factory Road, Kankarbagh, Patna-800026 (Bihar)*





Dr. Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra
President



Goods & Service Tax
Appellate Tribunal
Principal Bench, New Delhi
Room No.605, 6th Floor,
Tower-1, Jeevan Bharti Building,
Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001
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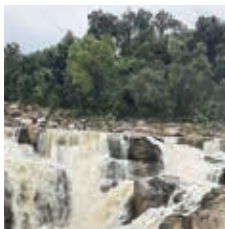
Message

It gives me immense pleasure to know that the High Court of Jharkhand, Ranchi is celebrating 25 years of its foundation on 15/11/2025. Though, comparatively a young High Court, the High Court of Jharkhand, Ranchi has achieved significant milestones in the dispensation of justice.

During my short tenure of about 10 months as a Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court, Ranchi, we have made significant progress in disposal of cases and also achieved milestones in the administrative side. I remember the contribution of everyone on the occasion of inauguration and dedication to people, of the new-grand-architectural marvel of the new High Court building at Dhruwa. All my sister and brother judges, the entire Registry, each and every staff of the High Court, every lawyer, every senior advocate or Members of the Advocate Association of governing body participated in the process and contributed to the best of their ability. The staffs were denied of the summer vacation because of the shifting of the records and I have not received a single complaint by anybody regarding the cancellation of the vacation. The enthusiasm and involvement of all concerned was very heart-warming.

We pray to the God Almighty that the High Court of Jharkhand, Ranchi shall continue to thrive in dispensation of justice as it is doing for the last 25 years and wipe the tears of poor litigants who approach it. I wish the Hon'ble Chief Justice Shri. Tarlok Singh Chauhan of Jharkhand High Court, Ranchi, all my sister and brother judges of the High Court, all other Members of the High Court, Registry staffs and advocates, all the best for the function. I am sure that it shall be a grand one and would be cherished by all the participant for a long time.


4/11/25
S.K. Mishra





Dr. Justice B. R. Sarangi
B.Com (Hons.) LL.M., Ph.D (Law)
Member



National Human Rights Commission

Manav Adhikar Bhawan, C-Block, GPO
Complex, INA, New Delhi-110 023 India
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E-mail : justicebr.sarangi@gov.in
Website : www.nhrc.nic.in



01st November, 2025

MESSAGE

Joy has engulfed me when I came to know that the High Court of Jharkhand is celebrating completion of 25 years of its historic and remarkable journey on 15th November, 2025. My experience with propinquity may it be for a very short period being the Chief Justice of this great institution, is in my heart and would remain forever.

The glory of this successful journey of 25 years marks a significant milestone filled with commitment, challenges and remarkable achievements in the justice dispensation system and it is undoubtedly the result of unwavering dedication of the perspicacious Chief Justices and Judges, the dynamic Bar members, the diligent officers and employees and all other stakeholders, who contributed their best for the growth & development of this illustrious institution.

This noble institution being epitome of dispensation of justice discharging its duties and responsibilities with utmost care and caution to all classes of people, irrespective of caste, creed, religion and sex and survives on public confidence. "Satyamev Jayate" and "Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitah" are the principles of catering the needs of the public at large to get justice. When people lose confidence on all other forums, such as Legislature and Executive, reposes utmost faith on Judiciary for getting justice.

This Silver Jubilee Day is undoubtedly an occasion for celebration, but equally it is a day of introspection to achieve the constitutional goal with its letter and spirit.

I pray Lord Jagannath that this noble institution should reach its highest pinnacle by serving mankind relentlessly.


(DR. JUSTICE B.R. SARANGI)





From The Desk of The Chief Justice

*“Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment. It has to be cultivated.
We must realize that our people have yet to learn it.”*

– Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

It is a profound privilege to extend my greetings on the historic occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the High Court of Jharkhand. This milestone, marking twenty-five years of service to the people of the State, is not merely a ceremonial celebration of institutional longevity, but a moment of reflection on the journey of justice, resilience, and constitutional commitment that this Court has upheld since its establishment on 15th November 2000.

From its inception, the High Court of Jharkhand has functioned as both a constitutional sentinel and a people’s court. In a State rich in tribal heritage, natural resources, and cultural identity, yet marked by social and economic challenges, the Court has played a defining role in upholding the rule of law while remaining sensitive to local realities. Its judicial pronouncements over the years reflect a deep respect for the values enshrined in the Constitution such as equality, liberty, social justice, and human dignity.





The jurisprudential contribution of this Court spans diverse and evolving domains. Landmark judgments in areas such as tribal land protection under the Chotanagpur and Santhal Pargana Tenancy Acts, environmental conservation, bonded labour rehabilitation, mining regulation, labour welfare, inheritance rights of tribal women, combating human trafficking and protection of vulnerable communities have reinforced the High Court's legacy as a forum of justice rooted in constitutional philosophy. At the same time, the Court has shown unwavering commitment to gender justice, child rights, and human dignity, ensuring that justice remains compassionate yet firm.

One of the most meaningful achievements of the Jharkhand judiciary over these twenty-five years has been its focus on access to justice. Justice is not truly done if it remains confined to courtrooms, it must reach the farthest and the weakest. In this regard, the Jharkhand State Legal Services Authority (JHALSA) has set a benchmark in judicial outreach. Its initiatives like Mega Lok Adalats, Permanent Lok Adalats, legal literacy camps, legal aid clinics in remote villages, rehabilitation support for victims of trafficking, assistance to survivors under the POCSO Act, support to persons with disabilities, and legal empowerment of women and children have transformed legal aid from a statutory mandate into a powerful movement of social justice.

In addition, victim compensation schemes under the Victim Compensation Fund, implemented by JHALSA, have restored dignity to survivors by transforming statutory relief into meaningful support. The focused efforts of JHALSA in rehabilitating children in conflict with the law, assisting child survivors of sexual abuse, and coordinating with Child Welfare Committees and Special Courts demonstrate a justice system that is empathetic and reformative.

This period has also witnessed a purposeful advance in judicial infrastructure and capacity building. The inauguration of the new High Court complex at Dhurwa, Ranchi, stands as a symbol of progressive institutional vision. Furthermore, the establishment of new judgeships and Sub-Divisional Courts has strengthened the judicial presence across the State, enabling timely access to justice in rural and remote regions.

The Judicial Academy Jharkhand has emerged as a centre of judicial learning and excellence. Through continuous judicial education programs, workshops on POCSO, cybercrime, environmental jurisprudence, gender sensitivity, restorative justice, human rights law, ADR mechanisms, and most recently, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (2023), the Academy has ensured that judicial officers and justice stakeholders remain equipped to address contemporary challenges.





The High Court has also embraced the future through innovation. Under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, the integration of digital filing systems, Case Information System (CIS), online cause lists, digitisation of records, and virtual courts has made the justice delivery system more transparent, efficient, and accessible especially for litigants residing in geographically distant districts. During the COVID-19 pandemic, when public life stood still, the judiciary of Jharkhand demonstrated resilience by ensuring uninterrupted functioning through virtual hearings, protecting the fundamental right to access justice even in unprecedented times.

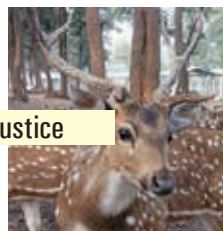
The High Court's commitment to social responsibility and constitutional morality has been reflected in judicial interventions on food security, prisoners' rights, bonded labour rehabilitation, trafficking prevention, environmental justice, school safety, and public health. These interventions have reinforced that courts are not merely adjudicators of disputes but protectors of justice in its truest essence.

This Silver Jubilee is also a tribute to the people who make justice possible i.e., the Hon'ble Judges, judicial officers, officers and staff of the Registry, members of the Bar, legal aid lawyers, para-legal volunteers, and support staff. Their dedication and integrity continue to shape this institution. Equally integral has been the trust and confidence of the people of Jharkhand. It is their faith in the justice system that inspires the judiciary to remain steadfast in its mission of service.

The journey ahead for the High Court is one that carries both responsibility and promise. The nature of justice is evolving in response to modern threats such as cyber offences, human trafficking, environmental harm, offences against women and children, and complex technological evidence. Meeting these challenges requires not only legal expertise but also judicial wisdom. The path forward must be paved with timely action, principled strength, and a deep commitment to fairness and humanity.

On this historic occasion, I extend my warmest wishes to everyone associated with the High Court of Jharkhand. May this Silver Jubilee not only celebrate past achievements but also strengthen our determination to build a future where justice is accessible to all, fair, fearless, and humane.


(Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan)
Chief Justice, High Court of Jharkhand





भारत का संविधान उद्देशिका

हम, भारत के लोग, भारत को एक संपूर्ण प्रभुत्व-संपन्न,
समाजवादी, पंथ-निरपेक्ष, लोकतंत्रात्मक गणराज्य
बनाने के लिए तथा उसके समस्त नागरिकों को:

सामाजिक, आर्थिक और राजनैतिक न्याय,

विचार, अभिव्यक्ति, विश्वास, धर्म

और उपासना की स्वतंत्रता,

प्रतिष्ठा और अवसर की समता

प्राप्त कराने के लिए,

तथा उन सब में व्यक्ति की गरिमा और

राष्ट्र की एकता और अखंडता

सुनिश्चित करने वाली बंधुता बढ़ाने के लिए

दृढ़संकल्प होकर अपनी इस संविधान सभा में आज
तारीख 26 नवंबर, 1949 ई. (मिति मार्गशीर्ष शुक्ला
सप्तमी, संवत् दो हजार छह विक्रमी) को एतद्वारा
इस संविधान को अंगीकृत, अधिनियमित और
आत्मार्पित करते हैं।





From The Desk of Chairman, Souvenir Committee...

I am pleased to express my heartfelt greetings on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the Jharkhand High Court. The completion of twenty-five years of Jharkhand High Court on 15th November 2025 is not only a reflection of its commendable journey but also a momentous occasion to applaud the steadfast commitment to the principles of justice, constitutional values and institutional growth.

Over these two and half decades, the High Court has played a central role in maintaining the rule of law and ensuring access to justice for the people of Jharkhand which is reflected in various judicial pronouncements and can be exemplified as an institution of wisdom, integrity, and fairness.

The High Court has consistently strengthened the jurisprudence of protection of fundamental rights in general and time bound dispensation of justice in particular. Through its judgments, proactive judicial initiatives and taking legal aid to the doors of the indigents, the High Court has been a beacon of upholding the constitutional principles giving due respect to the local customs and traditions of Jharkhand. While the judicial decisions have been the testament of applying the principles of justice to the practical realities, several administrative measures have been taken to ensure that the justice delivery tools and mechanisms become easily accessible to one and all which in turn have been essential in maintaining public confidence in the judiciary and inspiring trust in the legal system.

The progress of the Jharkhand High Court over the past twenty-five years is also reflected in its institutional and infrastructural development more particularly in





the field of law & technology. The inauguration of the new High Court Building at Dhurwa, Ranchi, six new judgeships and couple of sub divisional courts etc. are the few from the long list of its milestones achieved so far. The integration of technology including e-filing systems, digitization of records, and virtual hearings have further strengthened the efficiency and accessibility facilitating timely disposal of cases as well as reducing delays while making the judicial process more transparent and convenient for litigants. It is important to mention that during COVID-19 pandemic period, the Jharkhand judiciary has played a pivotal role in ensuring that the courts keep functioning and the citizens / litigants are not deprived of justice.

The High Court has also expressed its commitment to social justice and public welfare through numerous initiatives such as Mega Lok Adalats, Mediation Drives and Legal Aid Clinics etc. The Court has taken steps to promote awareness of legal rights, oversee the implementation of government schemes and to ensure accountability in public institutions. These initiatives have strengthened governance and have reinforced the rule of law throughout the State.

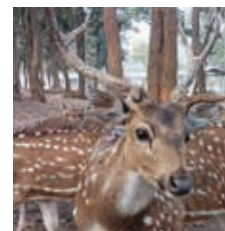
The achievements of the Jharkhand High Court are the result of the tireless work of the Hon'ble Judges, officers, staff and members of the Bar. I express my deep appreciation for their dedication, professionalism and commitment to justice. Their efforts, often under challenging circumstances, have shaped the institution's legacy. This Souvenir is intended to document the milestones and accomplishments of the High Court over the past twenty-five years as well as to honour the contributions of all those who have served with diligence and integrity.

As we celebrate this Silver Jubilee, we also look to the future with determination and confidence. The High Court continues to express its commitment to improving judicial processes, embracing innovation and delivering justice that is fair, timely and compassionate. It will remain a pillar of law and governance for the people of Jharkhand. I hope that this Souvenir will not only record the High Court's glorious journey but will also serve as a source of inspiration for future generations of legal professionals and public servants to uphold the values of justice, integrity and service.

On this special occasion, I express my warmest congratulations and best wishes to all who have contributed to the High Court's growth and achievements. May the institution continue to thrive, remain steadfast in its mission and inspire confidence as well as trust among the people it serves. May this milestone strengthen our collective dedication to the rule of law, protection of rights and service to society with fairness, integrity, and excellence.

Jai Hind !

Rajesh Shankar
Chairman, Souvenir Committee
High Court of Jharkhand



WORDS OF
ENCOURAGEMENT
FROM
HON'BLE JUDGES OF
HIGH COURT OF
JHARKHAND

“न्यायम बिना न राज्यम तिस्तती”
“State cannot stand without justice”



Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad



HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND
RANCHI - 834 033

It is a moment of immense pleasure and celebration that the High Court of Jharkhand is completing 25th year of its establishment on 15th November, 2025. The journey from the Circuit Bench of the Hon'ble Patna High Court established on 6 March 1972, turning to be the Permanent Bench of the Patna High Court, on 8 April 1976 and finally becoming the High Court of Jharkhand on reorganization of Bihar State has all along been instrumental in upholding the constitutional mandate of justice, contributing to a fair, just, and equitable society for the citizens under its jurisdiction.

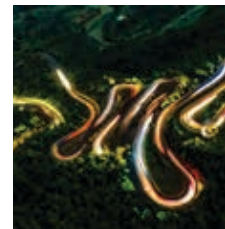
Over the past 25 years, our High Court has been a testament to the wonderful blending of a system of Legal Pluralism that includes traditional tribal customary law and legislation like Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act and Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act vis-a-vis the other constitutional laws. The meticulous effort from the end of learned members of Bar in past and present and from the Courtrooms of Hon'ble Benches have always been playing effectively prominent role in the dispensation of justice in the State.

During the last several years our High Court has witnessed several positive stances in the field of infrastructure, digitization, live streaming of Court proceedings, virtual mode appearances and the latest one in its row - establishing day care centre/crèche. The new High Court building is ideally and appropriately incorporating all these advancements and challenges for making a litigant friendly atmosphere and ensuring ease of justice to all.

I have been fortunate enough to be a part and parcel of both the Bar of the High Court of Jharkhand and the Bench and have witnessed the glorious aura of respectability, friendliness, and over and above the knowledge, wit and conscience of our predecessors either in Bar or at Bench which certainly are unabated source of learning and inspiration for all of us who are here to play an important and pious role in the dispensation of justice".

I hope and pray that the souvenir on the occasion of celebrating "Silver Jubilee of establishment of High Court of Jharkhand" will certainly lead not only to commemorate our glorious past but will also remain a testament of brilliant remarkable journey of 25 years paving way for better and brighter future for state judiciary.

Sujit Narayan Prasad
(Sujit Narayan Prasad)





Justice Rongon Mukhopadhyay



HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND
RANCHI - 834 004

It is a privilege to contribute this message on the occasion of the *Silver Jubilee* of the High Court of Jharkhand. This anniversary marks a period of profound dedication to the constitutional ethos and the administration of justice within our State.

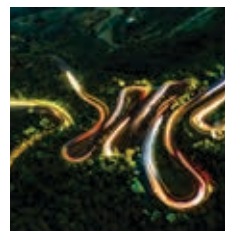
Established on November 15, 2000, pursuant to the Bihar Reorganisation Act, this High Court immediately assumed the arduous and sacred responsibility of being the ultimate judicial authority in Jharkhand. Our journey has been defined by an unwavering commitment to the principles of equity, fairness, and the Rule of Law. We have laboured tirelessly to ensure that justice is not merely dispensed but is accessible, intelligible, and delivered without fear or favour to all citizens.

The evolution of this institution over the last quarter-century reflects the State's own growth and maturity. The commissioning of the new High Court complex stands as a powerful symbol of our resolve to modernize and fortify the infrastructure necessary for an efficient and dignified judicial process. This milestone is a testament to the collective efforts invested in establishing a robust and transparent judicial system.

As we turn our gaze towards the future, we recognize that the effectiveness of the High Court rests upon the dedicated functionaries within the entire judicial ecosystem. We place on record the sincere appreciation for the commitment of the learned members of the Bar, whose advocacy sustains the vigour of legal discourse, and the essential, methodical work performed by the officers and staff of the Registry and all ancillary departments. Their collective diligence ensures the smooth operation of this temple of justice.

May this Souvenir serve as a lasting chronicle of our achievements and, more importantly, a solemn pledge that the High Court of Jharkhand shall continue its paramount mission: to safeguard constitutional values and expedite the delivery of impeccable justice for the people of this State.

(Rongon Mukhopadhyay)
Judge, High Court of Jharkhand





Justice Ananda Sen



HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND
RANCHI - 834 004
Phone : (0651) 2482647 (O)

It is really an honour for me to be a part of this institution, which is celebrating its 25th year of establishment. An institution, which stood by the poor, downtrodden and the marginalized section of our State. An institution where each and every person, irrespective of the status, can approach to seek justice.

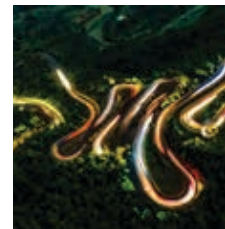
I feel fortunate that I have been a part of this institution since the day of its establishment. In fact, I had started practicing as a lawyer in the year 1997 when it was Ranchi Bench of the High Court of Judicature at Patna. On 15th November, 2000 with the creation of the new State of Jharkhand, the High Court of Jharkhand was established. Reckoning from the day of its establishment till this day when it is nearing to complete its glorious 25 years, I may share that as a practicing lawyer of this Court, I got opportunity to be associated with the very first Advocate General of the State of Jharkhand and at the same time, I got opportunities to appear and argue cases before many of the Hon'ble Chief Justices and Hon'ble Judges of this Court, some of whom later on were elevated as Hon'ble Judges in the Supreme Court of India and even the Chief Justice of India. It was blessings of almighty and my well wishers coupled with my efforts as a practicing lawyer of this Court that I got elevated as an Additional Judge of this Court on 8th April, 2016 and as Permanent Judge on 9th January, 2018.

Today I am here, but tomorrow I will not be, but this institution will always remain. We should all, no matter in what position we are, strive to strengthen this institution, as this is the institution, where everyone looks upon with hope when their rights are infringed, when they feel that injustice is caused to them.

Ananda Sen
(Ananda Sen)

Ranchi
Dated, the 31st October, 2025.

Residence : Judge's Bungalow No.5, Doranda, Ranchi





Justice Anil Kumar Choudhary



HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND

RANCHI - 834 033

Phone : 0651-2482404

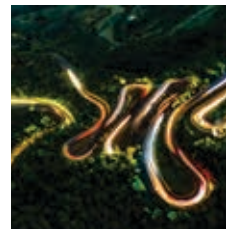
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It is heartening to note that the High Court of Jharkhand is publishing a souvenir to commemorate the silver Jubilee celebration of the court on completion of 25 years of establishment of High Court of Jharkhand. My first occasion of visiting the court in the old building dates back to a few months after establishment of the court itself was in the middle of the year 2001. The occasion was my interview for selection to Superior judicial service. I was before the then full court consisting of five Hon'ble judges, in the old Court building, in the room which was later on occupied by the Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Justice.

It's needless to mention that after establishment of the High Court of Jharkhand on 15.11.2001, under the dynamic leadership of Justice V. K. Gupta, the first Chief Justice, a massive plan was made out to reform the District Judiciary. It included shedding the dead Woods by compulsorily retiring nonperformers and officers of doubtful integrity. Substituting them with fresh blood by recruiting officers in superior judicial service as well as the civil judge Juniors Division in record time.

My interview with the then full court for about 25 minutes was marvellous; ending up with my selection. The selection to the superior judicial service was followed by a Self-financing training program in the premises of the old High Court in 2001. That gave me the opportunity to interact with the who's who of the High Court, including judges, prominent





Justice Anil Kumar Choudhary



HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND
RANCHI - 834 033

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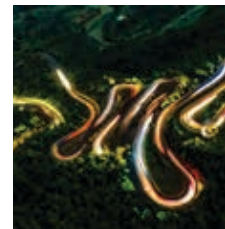
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advocates and senior judicial officers. Jharkhand judiciary including the district judiciary owe a lot to its first Chief Justice for the fine State in which it is at present.

Creation of the High Court was soon followed by development of the judicial infrastructure both of the High Court and the District Judiciary in war footing. Expansion of the old High Court building was made by adding court room, a conference hall known as white Hall, a complex having independent chambers for lawyers and Advocate General and other Government Advocates. Similarly new Court buildings and quarters for judicial officers and staff were constructed in almost all the judgeships. To match with infrastructure the work culture also saw a sea change. Gone were the days when judicial officers used to sit in the *dias* at their own time. The lethargic attitude to deal with Title suits and Appeals and the attitude of not granting bail even in deserving cases and to be shabbily dressed to pose as honest officers were done away with.

My attachment with the administration of the High Court started from April, 2012 as member of Registry of the High Court including as the Registrar General of the High Court and continuing uninterruptedly till today.

This uninterrupted association of mine over more than half of the period of existence of the High Court saw significant progress of the High Court in all spheres. During this time the





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Construction of the independent campus of the Judicial Academy by vacating the encroachment from the land allocated and the construction as well as the shifting and inauguration of the new Court building took place. These two architectural marvels are significant milestones in the annals of our High Court.

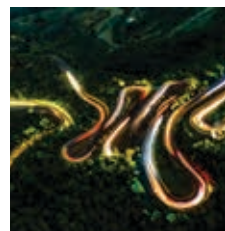
In these last 25 years, High Court of Jharkhand has seen many brilliant Chief Justices and Judges and contributed significantly to the jurisprudence. There are innumerable instances where the judgments of High Court are being relied upon by other jurisdictions. The management of cases, particularly the second appeals by bringing the average pendency of second appeals to below 10 years is a significant achievement worth emulation by other jurisdictions. No doubt High Court of Jharkhand has come off age, when it's in its youth while celebrating its 25th birthday.

On this momentous occasion I congratulate one and all in any way associated with this great court and look forward to make it the best Court of the country.

Johar.

Jai Jharkhand.

Anil Kumar Choudhary
(Justice Anil Kumar Choudhary)





Justice Rajesh Kumar



HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND
RANCHI - 834 033

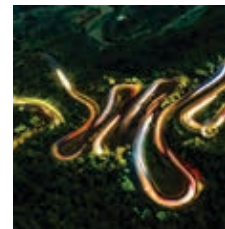
It is with deep pride and heartfelt joy, I extend my felicitations on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the Jharkhand High Court. The completion of twenty-five years is not merely a celebration of time, but of an institution that has steadfastly upheld the ideals of justice, independence, and compassion since its inception.

Over these years, the Jharkhand High Court has grown into a symbol of fairness and integrity, shaping jurisprudence and strengthening public faith in the rule of law. The contribution of successive Judges, members of the Bar, officers, and staff has been invaluable in nurturing this legacy and in ensuring that justice remains both accessible and humane.

As we commemorate this remarkable milestone, it is time to reflect upon our shared journey of challenges met with resolve, of progress achieved through innovation, and of a continuing commitment to constitutional values. Let us rededicate ourselves to carrying forward this proud tradition with renewed energy, vision and integration of common man's faith in the justice delivery system.

May the Jharkhand High Court continue to shine as a beacon of justice, guiding generations toward truth, equality, and the enduring spirit of the Constitution.

Rajesh Kumar
(Rajesh Kumar)





Justice Anubha Rawat Choudhary



HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND
RANCHI - 834 004

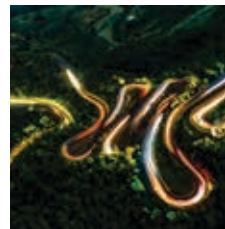
On the momentous occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the Jharkhand High Court, it is with immense pride and reverence that we commemorate 25 years of justice, integrity, and service to the people of Jharkhand. Since its establishment on November 15, 2000, the Jharkhand High Court has been a beacon of hope, upholding the rule of law and safeguarding the constitutional values that form the bedrock of our democracy.

This milestone is a testament to the unwavering commitment of the Hon'ble Judges, dedicated advocates, diligent court staff, and the entire legal fraternity who have tirelessly worked to ensure that justice is accessible, equitable, and timely. The court's journey reflects its pivotal role in addressing the unique socio-economic challenges of Jharkhand, fostering trust, and strengthening the judicial framework for a brighter future.

As we celebrate this historic occasion, let us reaffirm our resolve to uphold justice, promote fairness, and continue the court's legacy of excellence. May the Jharkhand High Court continue to shine as a pillar of righteousness and progress for generations to come.

Heartiest congratulations and best wishes for a glorious future!

Anubha Rawat Choudhary
(Anubha Rawat Choudhary, J.)





Justice Sanjay Kumar Dwivedi



HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND
RANCHI - 834 004

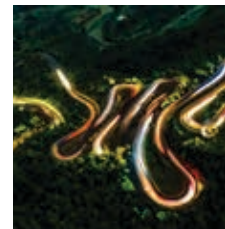
It is with immense pride and a deep sense of satisfaction that I extend my heartfelt felicitations on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the Hon'ble High Court of Jharkhand.

The completion of twenty-five years is not merely a chronological milestone but a moment of reflection on the journey of this institution from its formative years to its present stature as a pillar of justice in the State. Since its establishment in the year 2000, the High Court has consistently upheld the ideals of fairness, equity, and constitutional propriety, ensuring that justice reaches even the most vulnerable sections of society. The Silver Jubilee is both a milestone and a moment of introspection to look back with gratitude and to look ahead with renewed resolve.

The year 2023 shines as a moment of historic significance in the evolution of this Court. On 24th May 2023, the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, inaugurated the new High Court building, recognised as India's largest High Court complex by area, spread across 165 acres. This architectural achievement stands as a proud symbol of Jharkhand's judicial aspirations, expansive, forward-looking, and deeply grounded in constitutional ideals.

From its modest beginnings to its present stature, the Jharkhand High Court embodies a remarkable journey of transformation. It mirrors the evolution of the State itself, young yet wise, rooted in tradition yet responsive

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Justice Sanjay Kumar Dwivedi



HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND
RANCHI - 834 004

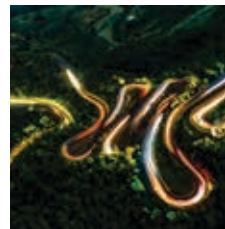
to change, resilient yet reformative. The institution has consistently upheld the majesty of law, the dignity of the individual, and the faith of the common citizen in the justice system.

As we celebrate this Silver Jubilee, it is fitting to acknowledge the tireless contributions of all who have shaped this institution the Hon'ble Judges, members of the Bar, officers, and staff. Their dedication has been the foundation upon which this Court continues to deliver justice with fairness, compassion, and integrity.

The road ahead demands that we carry this legacy forward by harnessing technology, deepening accessibility, and ensuring that justice remains timely, transparent, and humane.

May the High Court of Jharkhand continue to stand as a beacon of justice, a blend of tradition and transformation, illuminating the path of equity and constitutional morality for generations to come.


(Sanjay Kumar Dwivedi, J.)





Justice Deepak Roshan



HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND
RANCHI - 834 033

झारखंड उच्च न्यायालय, राँची की स्थापना के 25 वर्ष पूर्ण होने के अवसर पर प्रकाशित स्मारिका हेतु-

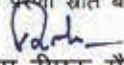
उड़ने दो परिंदों को, कि उड़ान अभी बाकी है
बढ़ने दो हौसलों को, कि मंजिलें अभी बाकी हैं
बढ़ने दो रफ्तार, कि पंरों में जान अभी बाकी है
पकने दो सपनों को, कि आसमान अभी बाकी है

सच! आज हम इन्हीं बुलंद हौसलों के बढौलत सफलता की सीढ़ी चढ़ते हुए रजत जयंती के एक खूबसूरत पड़ाव पर पहुँचे हैं। छोटानगपुर की खूबसूरत वादियों के बीच वीर बिरसा की भूमि पर न्याय और सामाजिक समरसता का पताका लिए हम झारखंड उच्च न्यायालय के गौरवशाली पच्चीस वर्ष पूर्ण होने का उत्सव मना रहे हैं। यह उत्सव न केवल न्याय, निष्ठा और विधि के शासन के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता का उत्सव है बल्कि समाज में संवैधानिक मूल्यों की रक्षा एवं मौलिक अधिकारों के संरक्षण का भी उत्सव है।

झारखंड राज्य के प्रत्येक नागरिक को न्याय देना, न्याय दिलाना और न्याय व्यवस्था के प्रति विश्वास पैदा करना ही इस न्यायालय का हमेशा से उद्देश्य रहा है। इसके लिए इस न्याय सदन के माननीय न्यायाधीशों की निष्ठा, अधिवक्ताओं का अथक प्रयास एवं कर्मचारियों के सहयोग ने मिलकर जानता के न्यायपालिका पर विश्वास को और सुदृढ़ किया है।

आज झारखंड उच्च न्यायालय देश भर में अपनी एक विशिष्ट पहचान बनाने में सफल हुआ है। सफल एवं ऐतिहासिक फैसले देने में, संविधान की गरिमा और नागरिक अधिकारों की रक्षा करने में अपने महत्वपूर्ण योगदान से यह न्यायालय अपने कर्मपथ पर निरंतर अग्रसर है।

मुझे गर्व है कि मैं झारखंड उच्च न्यायालय का एक हिस्सा हूँ और इस न्यायालय से प्रत्यक्ष एवं परोक्ष रूप से जुड़े सभी व्यक्तियों को इस ऐतिहासिक अवसर पर बधाई एवं शुभकामनाएँ प्रेषित करता हूँ। साथ ही यह मंगलकामना भी करता हूँ कि यह न्यायालय निष्पक्षता को प्रोत्साहित करता हुआ भविष्य में न्याय और सुरक्षा का एक सशक्त स्तंभ बने और समाज को प्रेरित करता रहे। आने वाला समय बीते समय का गुणगान करे और न्याय के सच्चे पथ पर चलता हुआ सभी के लिए प्रेरणा स्रोत बने।


जस्टिस दीपक रौशन





Justice Ambuj Nath



HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND
RANCHI - 834 033

On 15th November, 2025, the Jharkhand High Court is celebrating its Silver Jubilee. Going down the memory lane, I vividly remember the inauguration ceremony of Jharkhand High Court which was organized in the lawns of the then Jharkhand High Court at Doranda. I witnessed this historical moment as a lawyer of the Court. I am also fortunate to witness this momentous occasion as a Judge of this Court.

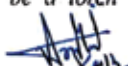
This institution has undergone sea changes.

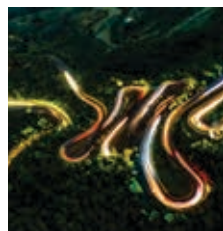
In the 25 years, since the formation of Jharkhand, the High Court of Jharkhand has seen many changes. The buildings have changed, number of Benches have increased and more digital infrastructures have been incorporated. These changes reveal how the Court must keep up with changing time, but amidst all these changes, one thing remain constant: the spirit of Bar and Bench to pursue the outcome they deem most just. Indeed, no matter how many changes are made to the Courts physical environment, this spirit must remain, for that is the essence of Court of law.

No doubt, there are disagreements about what constitute justice in each case. We see those disagreements between the Bar and the Bench every day in the Court. But underlying these disagreements is a fidelity to the higher ideal of justice. This fidelity is seen in a routine, yet inspiring instances in a Court room: in urgency with which lawyers pray for relief, in the thoughtful questions Judges sometimes ask parties themselves, in the fortitude with which the petitioners present themselves to the Court, in the sincerity which a clerk displays while remaining true to the spoken order of the Judge. We may sometimes go wrong in answering the question of "what is justice?" But the trivial foibles of human nature ought not to detract from the significance our endless thriving towards, what justice holds. For it is the attempt to answer that question without fear or ill will, which ultimately matters.

The 25 years of High Court of Jharkhand marks the culmination of entire generation of lawyers, Judges and Court Officers attempting to answer that question to the best of their abilities, the answer in each case is to do what is just.

I also take opportunity to congratulate all the stake holders of Jharkhand Judiciary and wish this institution to be a torch bearer in dispensation of justice.


(Ambuj Nath, J.)





JUSTICE SANJAY PRASAD



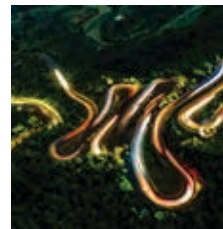
HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND
RANCHI - 834 033

It is a matter of great privilege to convey my greetings on the completion of 25 years of High Court of Jharkhand.

This is an apt occasion to celebrate and reminisce the journey of this Institution since its creation as a separate High Court in the year 2000 as a successor to the permanent Ranchi Bench of the Patna High Court with the formation of new State of Jharkhand.

Reaching such a milestone is indeed a testament to the consistent effort, dedication and commitment shown by all-be it the learned Members of Bar and Bench, the Officials of Registry, Ministerial Staff and at the core of it, the litigants who approached this Court with utmost faith and trust in Our Constitutional System. Throughout its journey, the High Court of Jharkhand, Ranchi has remained steadfast in upholding the rule of law, which forms the very foundation of our Constitution-Justice, Liberty, Equality and fraternity. The Institution has continuously thriven to ensure the protection of rights and the preservation of honour, dignity remains central to the dispensation of justice.

The journey of 25 years reflects the institution's achievements and its speedy progress through challenges.





JUSTICE SANJAY PRASAD



HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND
RANCHI - 834 033

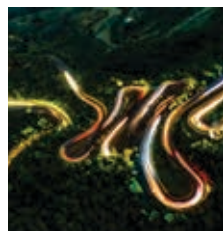
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and changing times. Every step forward has been built on the foundation of hard-work, integrity and collective aspiration towards excellence. This Silver Jubilee celebration is a golden moment to reaffirm faith in Constitutional values that defines the Institution and to renew our commitment to strengthen the rule of law in the years ahead.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to everyone, who have contributed to this remarkable journey and wish the Institution continued progress, harmony and success in all its future endeavors.

With warm regards,

(Justice Sanjay Prasad)





Pradeep Kumar Srivastava
Judge, High Court of Jharkhand

It gives me immense pleasure to bring into your kind notice that the High Court of Jharkhand, Ranchi has completed its 25 years on 15th November, 2025 as it came into existence on 15th November 2000 after reorganization of erstwhile State of Bihar. (Late) Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vinod Kumar Gupta, the 1st permanent Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court, played pivotal role in the initial functioning as well as overall development of Jharkhand Judiciary after the State's creation.

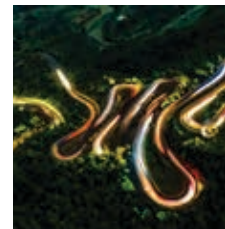
Since its inception, the High Court has witnessed many legendary Hon'ble Judges who have strengthened the legacy of this High Court by delivering landmark Judgments on Public issues and established the supremacy of Rule of Law in the State.

It has also made significant strides in upgrading its infrastructure, leveraging technology for greater efficiency and improving access to justice for the common litigants. The introduction of official Android Mobile App having features like checking case status, cause lists, orders/judgments, e-filing and applying for certified copies as well as other services like e-payment of court fee, online checking Stamp Reporting of Filing, e-Pass for Advocates/Litigants, Virtual hearing & LIVE STREAMING of Court proceedings etc. ensure greater transparency, accountability and ease of doing business.

The key challenges include lack of adequate physical and technological infrastructure in remote parts of the State as well as massive case backlog with high case load per judge due to judicial vacancies and low judge population ratio in the State.

Finally, I congratulate all the people of the State on the auspicious occasion of Silver Jubilee Celebration of High Court of Jharkhand and sincerely hope that the High Court will continue to serve the people of the State and fulfil the purposes for which it was established.


Pradeep Kumar Srivastava





Justice Arun Kumar Rai



HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND
DHURWA, RANCHI - 834 004

I am overjoyed that the High Court of Jharkhand is commemorating its 25 years of glorious existence. It has gained a reputation for dispensation of justice in efficient and harmonious manner. Prior to coming in to existence on 15-11-2000, it was a Bench of the High Court of Judicature at Patna.

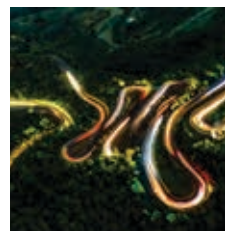
Historically and culturally, Indian civilisation has always accorded great prominence to the delivery of justice. Judicial systems that are accesible, fair and strengthened by effective justice delivery mechanism are critical components for a healthy democracy. This Court has played an important role in this regard.

This Court has a long history of landmark judgments that have had a significant impact on the socio-economic and political landscape of the region. It has also been at the forefront of preserving the cultural heritage of the State of Jharkhand by adjudication on matters related to tribal customs, tradition and practices. It has also played an important role in promoting legal awareness and educating the masses about their rights and responsibilities.

I extend my best wishes for this Souvenir which is being published to commemorate the 25 years of the High Court of Jharkhand. May the Souvenir being released on this occasion showcase the glorious past 25 years of this Court.

I am sure that the silver jubilee celebrations will inspire everyone associated with the Institution to take this Court to even greater heights of success and help in furthering a just and inclusive society.


(Arun Kumar Rai)





OLD BUILDING OF HIGH COURT



COURT ROOM OF OLD BUILDING OF HIGH COURT

REMINISCENCES

Memories are the key not to the past, but to the future."

– Corrie Ten Boom



ENTRANCE OF OLD BUILDING OF HIGH COURT



WHITE HALL OF OLD BUILDING OF HIGH COURT



Justice Gautam Kumar Choudhary



HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND
RANCHI - 834 033

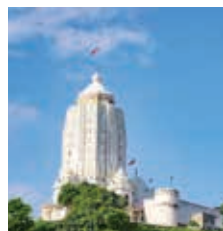
Memories and Reflections

As the State completes twenty-five years of its journey, it is natural to pause and look back, not merely to count milestones, but to revisit the experiences that shaped the spirit of its institutions. For those of us who entered the District Judiciary only a year after the State's creation, these years have been more than a professional tenure. We have lived through the very chronicle of change we now recall.

Those early years remain etched in memory: the summer months when sitting long hours in court, clad in coats, gowns, and bands felt akin to enduring a daily steam bath. By afternoon, one could find a strange comfort in the gentle breeze of the slow-moving ceiling fan while the sweat-soaked attire clung persistently, verily a living demonstration of Newton's law of cooling. Perhaps this ordeal strengthened our immune systems and made us sturdy enough to face any pandemic life might throw at us.

The days often ended with the familiar joyride home in the majestic Ambassador pool car which was the undisputed king of the road. Those cars would never test the speed limit; instead, they puffed and panted their way along, slow and steady, always dependable. True, they spent a fair bit of time in garages, but when on duty they were like loyal warhorses, carrying four or five of us safely home, despite creaking seats, jammed window panes and rattling silencers. That sturdy species is now extinct, and the new generation will never quite know their charm.

Another thing that has quietly faded from our court campuses is the melodious clatter of typewriters. Their rhythmic music once filled the air, echoing through every corridor. The typists, ever alert and disciplined, worked their Remingtons like expert pianists, striking keys with confidence, often correcting our grammar or refining our drafts on their own. Typing then was no easy affair. Judgments were written out by hand, corrected, and then retyped from scratch. Those faithful machines have now yielded to computers and word processors, finding a dignified retirement in museums. Yet, if the typewriters could speak, they might take pride in one thing modern technology has not mastered — brevity. No one could accuse a typewriter of producing long, winding judgments overflowing with citations on the same point of law.





Justice Gautam Kumar Choudhary



HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND
RANCHI - 834 033

Much has indeed changed during this time. What has not changed in this ever-evolving world, however, is the litigant's unending quest for speedy justice.

There are memories that refuse to part, despite the years and decades left behind. Crime shatters individuals and families, which the institutions cannot afford to ignore by sheer passage of time. In a Tenughat case, a father goes to drop his two minor daughters to school on his scooter, and by the time he returns back, his wife has been gored to death by those who had sought employment on the pretext of being domestic help. Once the father returns home, he is also murdered in cold blood and the perpetrators decamp with booty. By the end of the day when the daughters return home, the world has changed for them- they have been orphaned. It is difficult to forget the stunned face of the minors whose evidence was recorded by me in the court. I remember when they spoke, there was a Pindrop silence in the Court.

Then in a case, in another station, after conviction and sentence for life awarded for offences under Section 302 of the IPC, the convict folds his hand in deference and quietly moves out. This is the depth of faith that the common man still reposes in the judiciary. You inflict punishment, and they salute you.

Honesty and intellectual integrity are words of profound significance, imbued with deep and layered meaning. They are not the preserve of any particular class; time and again, it is the ordinary men and women who demonstrate these virtues that keep the life and spirit of the Republic alive.

I recall one summer day when a tribal woman made her way on foot from her distant village to the Court to give evidence in a criminal case. I had the occasion to record her testimony. Before entering the witness box, she removed her slippers, folded her hands in silent remembrance, and then took an oath to speak the truth. She carried herself with the quiet grace of one performing not merely a legal duty, but an act of sacred solemnity.

After her deposition, she was offered the witness cost—her lawful entitlement towards travel expenses. To my surprise, she appeared startled at the idea of being paid for giving evidence. With a gentle refusal, she declined the money and walked away. It was a humbling experience to be a witness to this episode. She had silently defined what honesty really means.

Truth is the foundation upon which justice rests, and witnesses are the eyes and ears of the Court. When the fear of the lawbreaker grows stronger than





Justice Gautam Kumar Choudhary



HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND
RANCHI - 834 033

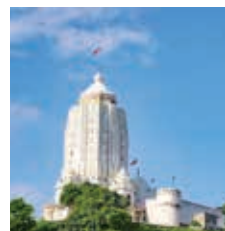
the faith in those who uphold the law, truth begins to retreat into silence. Witnesses, intimidated by the ever-present threat of retribution, often withhold what they know, or worse, recant what they once affirmed. It is a numbing experience to record the story of victims of crime, those who lost their loved ones, to the crimes committed by armed gangs, at times cloaked in ideological pretences, stand in the witness box and, under the unseen weight of fear that shadows their remote villages, turn hostile and absolve those they once saw commit the crime. A trial judge can recall countless instances where the trial remained fair to the accused, yet for the victims and their witnesses, speaking the truth in court could mean courting death outside it.

Courtrooms are the arenas where life, in all its profundity, unfolds its conflicts and contradictions, hopes and tragedies, greed and falsehood, love and betrayal, faith and deceit. Parties in litigation silently bear their anguish and suffering; the passing years may dull their pain but can never quite erase it. They continue to live with their mental, emotional scars, often forgotten and lost within the files awaiting adjudication.

As I look back upon the bygone years, waves of memory rise unbidden, almost overwhelming in their intensity, that engulf me. Some remain vivid on the surface, others lie submerged in the deep recesses of consciousness, buried within the trillion living cells that mould the way I think, feel, and act in life. These reflections remind me that we do not inhabit a perfect world; and in our rightful pursuit of perfection, we must guard ourselves against the lure of utopian ideals of justice.

Fragments of collective memory form the fabric of our lived experience. They are, in the words of Oliver Wendell Holmes, "the life of law." By *experience*, however, one refers not to the isolated perception of an individual, but to the shared consciousness of a community—an inheritance shaped by the accumulated experiences of society over time. In the evolution of law, whether through legislation or judicial interpretation, this collective experience cannot be disregarded.

Those who have never felt the searing heat of a trial from close proximity at times see things differently. They sometimes reproach trial judges as being hesitant in their decisions or lacking sensitivity toward the accused. Yet it is not fear that guides the trial judge, but an empathetic awareness refined through





Justice Gautam Kumar Choudhary



HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND
RANCHI - 834 033

witnessing the suffering of victims. There exists, therefore, a universal need for catharsis by unburdening of the intellectual and emotional weight we all individually bear, so that our judgments remain untainted by personal bias and true to both the letter and the spirit of the law.

Choudhary

(Justice Gautam Kumar Choudhary)



HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND - SITTING JUDGES

*Truth cannot be suppressed and always is the
ultimate victor.*

– Yajur Veda





Hon'ble The Chief Justice with companion Sister and Brother Judges of The High Court of Jharkhand (As on 15.11.2025)

Left to Right :

**Justice Pradeep Kumar Srivastava, Justice Ambuj Nath, Justice Deepak Roshan, Justice Anubha Rawat Choudhary,
Justice Anil Kumar Choudhary, Justice Ananda Sen, Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad, Chief Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan,
Justice Rongon Mukhopadhyay, Justice Rajesh Shankar, Justice Rajesh Kumar, Justice Sanjay Kumar Dwivedi,
Justice Gautam Kumar Choudhary, Justice Sanjay Prasad & Justice Arun Kumar Rai**



**Hon'ble The Chief Justice
Tarlok Singh Chauhan**





**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Sujit Narayan Prasad**



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Rongon Mukhopadhyay**



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Ananda Sen**



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Rajesh Shankar**





**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Anil Kumar Choudhary**



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Rajesh Kumar**



**Hon'ble Mrs. Justice
Anubha Rawat Choudhary**



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Sanjay Kumar Dwivedi**





**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Deepak Roshan**



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Gautam Kumar Choudhary**



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Ambuj Nath**



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Sanjay Prasad**





**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Pradeep Kumar Srivastava**



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Arun Kumar Rai**



LIBRARY OF OLD BUILDING OF HIGH COURT

HON'BLE JUDGE
OF THE
HIGH COURT
OF JHARKHAND
APPOINTED AS THE
CHIEF JUSTICE
OF INDIA

*At his best, man is noblest of all animals;
Separated from law and Justice
he is the worst.*

– Aristotle



**Late Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Altamas Kabir**



HON'BLE JUDGES
OF THE
HIGH COURT
OF JHARKHAND
ELEVATED AS
JUDGES OF
THE SUPREME COURT
OF INDIA

*Constitution is not a mere lawyers document,
it is a vehicle of life and its spirit is always
the spirit of age.*

– Dr. B.R. Ambedkar



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
P.K. Balasubramanyan**



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Sudhanshu Jyoti Mukhopadhaya**



**Late Hon'ble Mr. Justice
M.Y. Eqbal**



**Hon'ble Mrs. Justice
Gyan Sudha Misra**





**Hon'ble Mrs. Justice
R. Banumathi**



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Aniruddha Bose**



CONFERENCE HALL



← FIRST FLOOR
COUNT NO: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12
← SECOND FLOOR
COUNT NO: 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24

CHIEF JUSTICE'S LOBBY

HON'BLE JUDGES
OF
HIGH COURT
OF JHARKHAND
APPOINTED AS
CHIEF JUSTICE
OF OTHER HIGH
COURTS OF INDIA

*"The law must be stable but
it must not stand still."*

– Roscoe Pound



**HON'BLE JUDGES OF HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND
SERVING AS CHIEF JUSTICES OF DIFFERENT HIGH COURTS**



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh
Chief Justice, High Court for the State of Telangana**



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
M. S. Ramachandra Rao
Chief Justice, High Court of Tripura**



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Shree Chandrashekhar
Chief Justice, High Court of Bombay**





**HON'BLE FORMER JUDGES OF HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND
WHO SERVED AS CHIEF JUSTICES OF DIFFERENT HIGH COURTS**



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Permod Kohli
Former Chief Justice, Sikkim High Court**



**Late Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Rakesh Ranjan Prasad
Former Chief Justice,
Manipur High Court**



**Hon'ble Mr. Justice
Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel
Former Chief Justice, Delhi High Court**





VIDEO CONFERENCE HALL

FORMER CHIEF JUSTICES OF THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND

*"The life of law has not been logic;
It has been experience."*

– Oliver Holmes



Late Justice Vinod Kumar Gupta
(05.12.2000-04.03.2003)



Justice P. K. Balasubramanyan
(10.03.2003- 26.08.2004)



Late Justice Altamas Kabir
(01.03.2005- 08.09.2005)



Justice Nelavoy Dhinakar
(04.12.2005- 09.06.2006)





Justice M.Karpaga Vinayagam
(17.09.2006-15.05.2008)



Justice Gyan Sudha Misra
(13.07.2008-30.04.2010)



Late Justice Bhagwati Prasad
(22.08.2010-12.05.2011)



Justice Prakash Tatia
(11.09.2011-03.08.2013)





Justice R. Banumathi
(16.11.2013-12.08.2014)



Justice Virender Singh
(01.11.2014-06.10.2016)



Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty
(24.03.2017- 09.06.2017)



Justice Aniruddha Bose
(11.08.2018-23.05.2019)





Dr. Justice Ravi Ranjan
(17.11.2019-19.12.2022)



Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra
(20.02.2023-28.12.2023)



Justice Dr. Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi
(05.07.2024-19.07.2024)



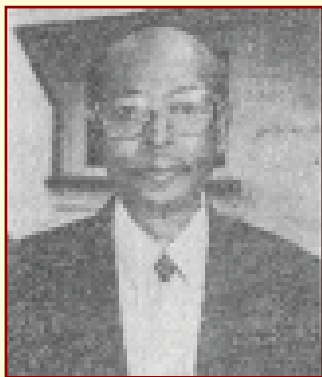
Justice M.S. Ramachandra Rao
(25.09.2024-21.07.2025)





Former Judges of High of Jharkhand

List of First Six Hon'ble Judges who become the Judges of New High Court of Jharkhand on 15.11.2000



Late Justice Ashoke Kumar Prasad



Late Justice Choudhary Sadanand Mishra



Justice Deoki Nandan Prasad



Justice Gurusharan Sharma



Justice Sudhanshu Jyoti Mukhopadhaya

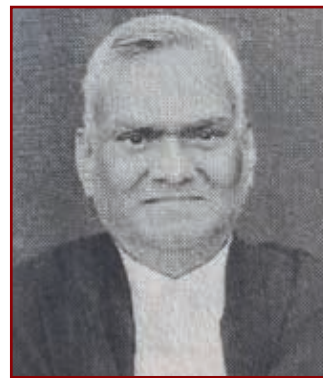


Late Justice M. Y. Eqbal





Justice Hari Shankar Prasad



Justice Lakshman Uraon



Late Justice Vikramaditya Prasad



Justice Vishnudeo Narayan



Justice Dhananjay Prasad Singh



Justice Dabbiru Ganeshrao Patnaik





Justice Amareshwar Sahay



Justice Dilip Kumar Sinha



Justice J.C.S. Rawat



Late Justice Pradeep Kumar



Justice Poonam Srivastava



Justice R.K. Merathia





Justice Sushil Harkauli



Justice Jaya Roy



Justice Narendra Nath Tiwari



Justice Tapen Sen



Late Justice Dhruv Narayan Upadhyay



Justice P.P. Bhatt





Late Justice Ravi Nath Verma



Justice Alok Singh



Justice Pramath Patnaik



Late Justice Prashant Kumar



Justice Anant Bijay Singh



Justice B. B. Mangalmurti





Justice Harish Chandra Mishra



Justice Amitav Kumar Gupta



Late Justice Kailash Prasad Deo



Justice Ratnaker Bhengra



Justice Subhash Chand



Dr. Justice S. N. Pathak





Justice Navneet Kumar

All the rights secure to the citizens under the constitution are worth nothing and mere bubble, except guaranteed to them by an independent and virtuous judiciary.

– Andrew Jackson



ANECDOTES FROM THE BAR

*"Advocacy is empathy, compassion
& community at work."*

– Janna Cachola



PICTURESQUE VIEW OF DOME OF NEW HIGH COURT BUILDING (INSIDE VIEW)



राजीव रंजन
वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता
Rajiv Ranjan
Senior Advocate



महाधिवक्ता
झारखण्ड
Advocate General
Jharkhand

It is with profound reverence and deep emotion that I pen these words on the historic occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the High Court of Jharkhand. This celebration is not merely of an institution completing twenty-five years - it is a celebration of an enduring idea, of a living legacy of justice, and of a collective journey that embodies the spirit and soul of Jharkhand itself.

My association with this institution is not merely professional - it is personal, emotional, and deeply intertwined with my own evolution as a member of the Bar. When I joined the legal profession in 1994, the Permanent Bench of the Patna High Court at Ranchi was then the centre of our legal universe. The corridors were modest, but the ideals were towering. The walls echoed with the passion, intellect, and sincerity of lawyers and judges who carried forward the faith of the people of this region in the rule of law. I still remember the quiet dignity of those courtrooms, where justice was not merely delivered, but lived.

The transformation from the Circuit Bench (1972) to a Permanent Bench in 1976, and then to the establishment of the Jharkhand High Court on 15 November 2000, was not just an administrative or territorial shift. It was the realization of a long-cherished aspiration - the yearning of the people of Jharkhand for their own seat of justice, closer to their soil, reflecting their hopes, values, and voices. The creation of the High Court of Jharkhand was, in many ways, the birth of a new identity for the State - an identity rooted in

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दूरभाष/Tele. - 0651-2240033, ई-मेल/E-mail : rajivd60@gmail.com





राजीव रंजन
वरीय अधिवक्ता
Rajiv Ranjan
Senior Advocate



महाधिवक्ता
झारखण्ड
Advocate General
Jharkhand

fairness, equality, and justice. Jharkhand is the land of Birsa Munda and of Shibu Soren - Guru ji and countless others who have led their life in preserving the rich cultural and ancient tribal heritage of the land, of its rich abundance of natural resources and beauty, of its flora and fauna.

Over these twenty-five glorious years, this High Court has written its own chapter in the legal and constitutional history of India. It has evolved into an institution of immense dignity, independence, and moral authority - guided by the wisdom of its Hon'ble Judges and strengthened by the intellectual commitment of the Bar. Every milestone of this journey from the early years in the Doranda building to the magnificent new complex at Dhurwa has been built upon the dedication, patience, and vision of countless individuals who believed in the power of justice as a force for societal good.

The new High Court complex, inaugurated in 2023 by the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, is a proud symbol of this continuing journey. Spread across 165 acres, it stands today as the largest High Court complex in India, an embodiment of progress, strength, and modern judicial aspiration. But more than its grandeur and scale, what makes this new home remarkable is what it represents - the culmination of decades of perseverance and the promise of a future committed to excellence, accessibility, and innovation in justice delivery.

As one who has witnessed this institution's journey from its formative years, I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude. Gratitude towards the Hon'ble Judges, past and present, who have adorned its benches with wisdom and humility; gratitude towards the members of the Bar, whose dedication and advocacy have been its lifeblood; and gratitude towards the countless officers and staff, whose

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राजीव रंजन
वरिय अधिवक्ता
Rajiv Ranjan
Senior Advocate



महाधिवक्ता
झारखण्ड
Advocate General
Jharkhand

silent service has kept this great institution functioning with dignity and discipline.

The relationship between the Bar and the Bench in Jharkhand has always been characterized by mutual respect, intellectual honesty, and shared responsibility. This harmony is the true strength of our High Court. Together, they have upheld the ideals enshrined in our Constitution ensuring that justice in Jharkhand is not a privilege of the few but the right of all.

The Silver Jubilee is not just a milestone of years , it is a moment of reflection and reaffirmation. It reminds us that the pursuit of justice is an ever-evolving journey, not a destination. It calls upon each of us judges, lawyers, administrators, and citizens alike to preserve the sanctity of this institution, to strengthen its foundations with integrity, and to ensure that the light of justice never dims in our State.

As the Advocate General of Jharkhand, and as one who has grown and matured alongside this institution, I feel a deep sense of pride in its achievements and an even deeper sense of responsibility towards its future. May the High Court of Jharkhand continue to rise in glory, guided by wisdom, sustained by faith, and devoted eternally to the cause of justice.

**“Courts are not made of walls and stone,
But of faith that justice shall be done.
As long as truth and conscience reign,
The light of law shall never wane.”**

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RAJENDRA KRISHNA, Adv.
Chairman



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झारखण्ड राज्य विधिज्ञ परिषद्
JHARKHAND STATE BAR COUNCIL

(Statutory Body Constituted under The Advocates' Act, 1961)

Justice Colony, North Office Para, Doranda, Ranchi-2

Phone : 0651-2410008, 0651-2412722, 9431936083

E-mail : info@jharkhandstatebarcouncil.org | Website : www.jharkhandstatebarcouncil.org

Ref. No. :

Date :

A Quarter Century of Justice: Message from the Chairman,
Jharkhand State Bar Council

On behalf of the entire legal fraternity and the Jharkhand State Bar Council, I extend my warmest congratulations and deepest respect to the Hon'ble Judges, the esteemed Members of the Bar & Registry, and all members of the staff on the occasion of the 25th Foundation Day of the Jharkhand High Court, Ranchi.

This celebration is particularly significant as it is the Silver Jubilee of Jharkhand's Statehood. The establishment of our High Court in 2000 was not merely a procedural step; it was a profound affirmation of the rule of law and the constitutional rights of the people of this vibrant state.

For 25 years, the Jharkhand High Court has stood as a steadfast sentinel of justice, upholding fairness, interpreting the law, and protecting the fundamental rights of every citizen. Its journey has been intertwined with the growth and development of Jharkhand itself—navigating complex socio-economic issues, dealing with unique legal challenges, and striving to ensure access to justice, particularly for the underprivileged and tribal communities.

As we celebrate this remarkable quarter-century, let us look forward with renewed commitment. May the Jharkhand High Court continue to be a beacon of hope, fairness, and speedy justice. The next 25 years will undoubtedly bring new challenges, but with the combined wisdom of the Bench, the tenacity of the Bar, and the support of the people, we are confident in our continued path towards a more just and equitable society.

Rajendra Krishna

Rajendra Krishna
Chairman

Jharkhand State Bar Council





ADVOCATES' ASSOCIATION (REGD.)

Jharkhand High Court Campus, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004

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President

Mr. Mukesh Kumar Sinha
Vice President

Mr. Navin Kumar
General Secretary

Mr. Pran Pranay
Treasurer

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Assistant Treasurer

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5.Mr. Moti Gope

6.Ms. Prachi Pradipti

7.Mrs. Nalini Jha

8.Mrs. Kavita Singh

9.Mr.Venkateshwar Gopal



Date: 03.11.2025

MESSAGE

It is with immense pride and joy that I extend my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Jharkhand High Court.

Twenty-five years ago, the establishment of the Jharkhand High Court marked a significant milestone in the constitutional and judicial history of our state. Over these remarkable years, the High Court has emerged as a beacon of justice, upholding the rule of law and safeguarding the constitutional rights of the citizens of Jharkhand with unwavering commitment and distinction.

The Advocates Association takes this opportunity to acknowledge the exemplary contribution of the Hon'ble Judges, past and present, whose wisdom, integrity, and dedication have shaped the jurisprudence of our state. We also pay tribute to the advocates, court staff, and all stakeholders who have worked tirelessly to strengthen the administration of justice.

As we celebrate this momentous occasion, we reaffirm our commitment to supporting the High Court in its noble mission and to maintaining the highest standards of professional excellence and ethical conduct in our practice.

May the Jharkhand High Court continue to shine as a temple of justice, inspiring confidence and dispensing justice with compassion and fairness for generations to come.

With warm regards and best wishes,

(Ritu Kumar)

President,
Advocates Association,
Jharkhand High Court.

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Down the Memory Lane



I, feel honored to write a few words on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of Hon'ble High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi. This I am doing so at the request of some of my close friends as well as by some of the present Hon'ble Judges. They expected that I should write about some important events of the past in relation to the Hon'ble High Court at Ranchi so that it may be included in the souvenir proposed to be published on the occasion of Silver Jubilee year celebration i.e., 25th year of the establishment of Hon'ble High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi. We know that Hon'ble

High Court at Ranchi was established on 15th day of November, 2000 i.e., on the date when State of Jharkhand also came in to being.

Probably, I was requested to write these few words as I have been associated since the very beginning with the establishment of the Ranchi Bench of Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Patna, which later on became Hon'ble High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi. These all events started taking place in the old premises of the High Court at Doranda, Ranchi. Some of the events have taken place in the present premises at Dhurwa also.

I vividly remember that the Ranchi Circuit Bench of High Court of Judicature at Patna was established in the old premises at Doranda on 6th March, 1972, i.e., before I joined the profession - 16-05-1972. I was 6th member of the family in the legal profession and 4th generation member of the family. Not only that I am also the eldest member of my generation in this profession. At that time, my family members were in this profession right from the Sub-Divisional Court to the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Therefore affection and attachment for legal profession is in my blood. Fortunately, in the year 1976 I was married at Ranchi.

At the time of establishment of the permanent Bench of the Patna High Court at Ranchi no member of my family was at Ranchi. Therefore, I being the then youngest member in the family in the profession decided to shift my practice from the Patna High Court to Ranchi Bench.

Permanent Bench of the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Patna was established through Parliamentary Legislation i.e., The High Court at Patna (Establishment of Permanent Bench at Ranchi) Act 57 of 1976, dated 8th April, 1976. Its territorial jurisdiction





was extended to the old district of Hazaribagh, Giridih, Dhanbad, Ranchi, Palamau and Singhbhum.

The functioning of the Ranchi Branch of High Court of Judicature at Patna was commenced on 19-04-1976, in a portion of the old premises at Doranda. Fortunately, on 19-04-1975, i.e., very first day of sitting of court at the Ranchi Bench, I had occasion to appear and argue a case before the Division Bench.

As said above, benefits of Advocates and Advocates' Association was in my blood, therefore, I started participating in activities of Advocates' Association at Ranchi. In the First Election of Office bearers of Advocates' Association, Ranchi Bench, Patna High Court, Mr. Kameshwar Prasad was elected as President and the then Mr. A. Sahay {Mr. A. Sahay later elevated as Judge of Hon'ble High Court of Jharkhand}, and I, too was elected as Secretaries. In the next year, i.e., 1977 also though I continued as Secretary of the Advocates' Association, but Mr. S. Roy was elected as Secretary General of the Advocates' Association, who later became the first advocate from Ranchi Bench, who was elevated as a Judge of Patna High Court.

In the Ranchi Bench of the Patna High Court, first oath was administered to Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.M. Mishra at the old premises of High Court at Doranda by the then Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shambhu Prasad Singh in our presence. I have also named Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.M. Mishra because he and Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.Roy were very much instrumental in helping the Bar of the High Court to grow at that time.

In the year 1986, on completion 10 years of the establishment of the permanent Bench of High Court at Ranchi, our Advocates' Association had occasion to welcome the Former Justice of India, Mr. Justice Y.V. Chandrachud in the old premises of the High Court at Doranda and at that time I was Secretary General of the Advocates' Association.

At Ranchi with the help the Advocates' Association an important event of International Law Association, Patna Centre, Ranchi was organized at Mecon Hall, Ranchi under the guidance of the former Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.P. Singh [who was later appointed Chief Justice of Bombay High Court and thereafter elevated to the Hon'ble Supreme Court] and Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.K. Chattopadhyay as well. In the said meet the former Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kuldeep Singh of the Supreme Court of India was the main speaker on the subject of "SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT".

With passage of time, the functioning of Ranch Bench of High Court of Judicature at Patna improved. In the meantime, demand for a separate state of Jharkhand was on





rise with culminated into passing the Jharkhand Area Autonomous Council Bill in the month of December, 1994. Eventually, the Parliament passed The Bihar Reorganization Act, 2000, which received assent of the President of India on 25-08-2000 and state came into being on 15.11.2000 on the auspicious day of Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jayanti.

On 15th November, 2000 Hon'ble High Court of Jharkhand was inaugurated in the premises of High Court at Doranda in presence of former Chief Justice of India Mr. Justice A.S. Anand and former Union Law Minister Arun Jaitly.

At that time Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vinod Kumar Gupta was Acting Chief Justice, who was later appointed as First Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court. At the time of inauguration of Hon'ble High Court, it had six Hon'ble Judges, namely : - (i). Hon'ble Mr. Justice Choudhary S. N. Mishra, (ii). Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gurusharan Sharma, (iii). Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.J. Mukhopadhyay, (iv). Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Y. Eqbal, (v). Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashoke Kumar Prasad, and (vi). Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deoki Nandan Prasad.

The Advocate Association of Ranchi had a great history as several advocate had been elevated as Judge of Hon'ble High Court and Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Notable, Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.B. Sinha, Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.J. Mukhopadhyay and Late Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.Y. Eqbal elevated to Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The other members of bar who were elevated as Judge of High Court of Jharkhand are Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amareshwar Sahay, Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.N. Prasad, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rogon Mukhopadhyay, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anand Sen, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Shankar, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Kumar, Hon'ble Mrs. Justice A. R. Choudhary, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Kumar Dwivedi & Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Roshan Bench.

There is also a very interesting story about the allotment of land for construction of present High Court Building. The story goes like this that was a B.I.F.R. proceeding against H.E.C. The matter was before the then Company Judge Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.J. Mukhopadhyay. The case arose because HEC was unable to repay crores of dues of the Electricity Board, State of Jharkhand and other claimants. In the said case I had the occasion to represent the Electricity Board as its Senior Standing Counsel. Everyone was interested in saving H.E.C. including the Central Government. So far persons from legal side suggested that HEC, out of its vacant land should settle sufficient land for Hon'ble High Court and Vidhan Sabha. The said proposal was accepted by Central Government and HEC and due to the efforts of all, including our members of the Advocates' Association about 165 acres of land was allotted to the Hon'ble Court. At the time of laying down the foundation of the





High Court at Dhurwa some of Hon'ble Judges from the Supreme Court also grace the occasion. On that occasion myself and several members of the Advocates' Association were also present. During the process of construction of the High Court, Advocates' Association was regularly demanding from the State Government for construction of sufficient numbers of chambers for the members of the Advocates' Association. In course of time construction work of High Court was completed. At present there are two other Hon'ble Judges, who were also members of our Advocates' Association before joining judicial service, they are Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ambuj Nath & Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Prasad. I will not be doing justice if I do not refer to other present respectable Hon'ble Judges. First of them are Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan, who is trying his best to manage the affairs of the Hon'ble High Court of Jharkhand in spite of shortage of about 9 to 10 Judges. Other Hon'ble Judges namely Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Kumar Choudhary, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gautam Kumar Choudhary, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pradeep Kumar Srivastava and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arun Kumar Rai are also co-operating and laboring hard to help the Hon'ble the Chief Justice and other Judges named above, in disposal cases / court works. Before summer vacation of the year 2023, 19-05-2023 was the last working day in the High Court at Doranda. Fortunately, I also had an occasion to appear in the matter before the Division Bench of Hon'ble former Chief Justice on the very same day.

The building of new High Court was inaugurated on 24th May, 2023 by Her Excellency Smt. Droupadi Murmu, President of India in the benign presence of Hon'ble former Chief Justice of India Dr. D.Y. Chandrachud, Sri Hemant Soren, Chief Minister, Jharkhand, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra, Former Chief Justice of High Court of Jharkhand, Sri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice, Govt. of India, Hon'ble Dignitaries and Distinguished Guests. During inauguration all designated Senior Advocates, including me, were facilitated by Hon'ble Judges of the High Court for which I carry a sweet memory. With above words I express my best wishes to the Hon'ble High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi, to the Hon'ble Judges and the members of Advocates' Association.

Thanks!

Vijoy Pratap Singh
Sr. Advocate
High Court of Jharkhand



THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA



Preamble



WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a **SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC** and to secure to all its citizens:

JUSTICE, social, economic and political;

LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation;

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do **HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.**

A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME: HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND

*"It is the spirit of and not the form of
law that keeps justice alive."*

– Earl Warren

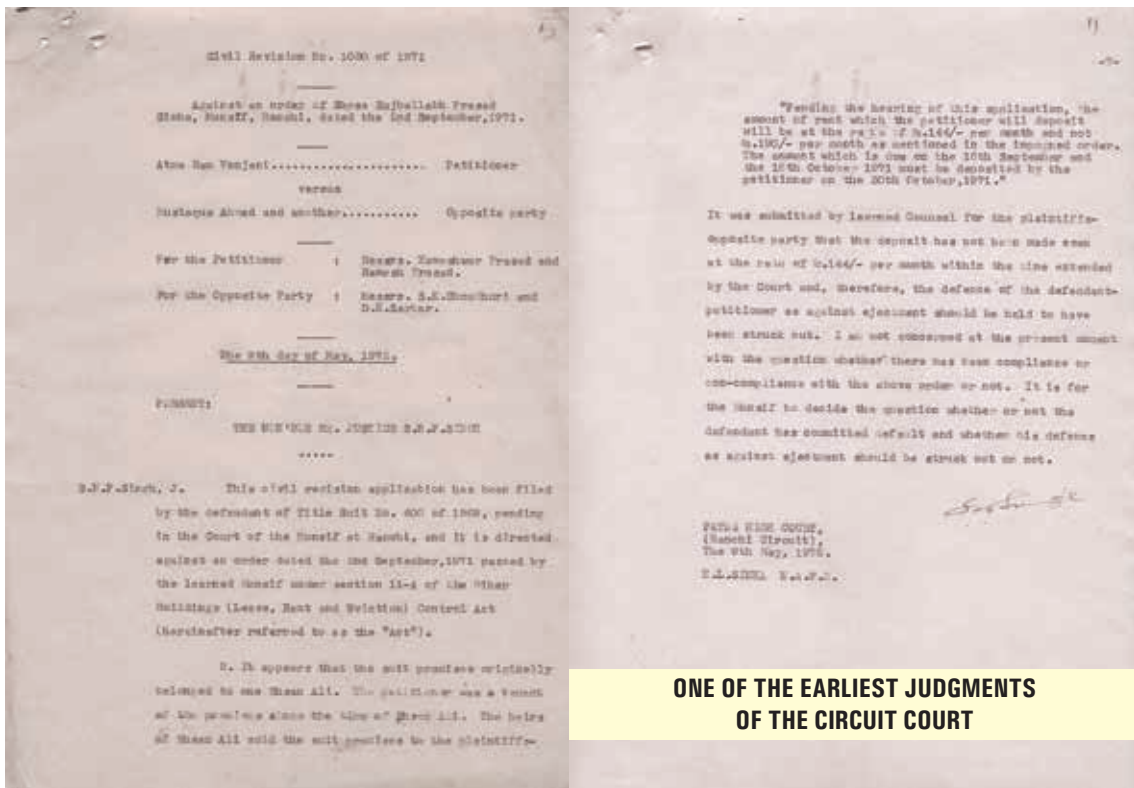




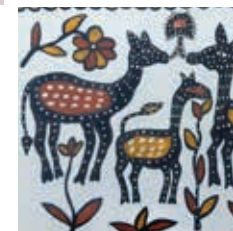
A Journey Through Time: High Court of Jharkhand

♦ From the Souvenir Committee Desk*

The establishment of the High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi is rooted in Ranchi Circuit Bench of the High Court of Judicature at Patna, which was started in the old premises at Doranda on 6th March, 1972 with respect to cases arising in the then districts of Hazaribagh, Giridih, Dhanbad, Ranchi, Palamau and Singhbhum. Whereas on 15th day of November, 2000 i.e., on the date when the State of Jharkhand also came into being the Permanent Bench of Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Patna was established.



ONE OF THE EARLIEST JUDGMENTS
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT





First Oath in Ranchi Bench of Patna High Court

In the Ranchi Bench of Patna High Court Mr. Justice G.M. Mishra was the first Hon'ble Judge whose oath as a permanent Judge of High Court was administered in the premises of the old High Court at Doranda by the then Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shambhu Prasad Singh.

In the year 1986, on completion of 10 years of establishment of the permanent Bench of the High Court at Ranchi, Advocates' Association had the occasion to welcome the then Chief Justice of India Mr. Justice Y.V. Chandrachud in the old premises of High Court at Doranda.

First Election of the Advocates' Association

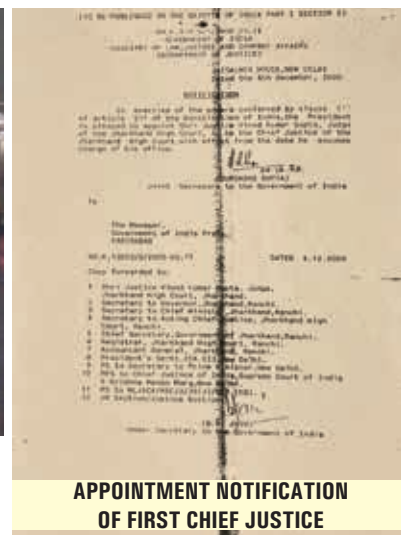
In the First Election of Office bearers of Advocates' Association, Ranchi Bench of Patna High Court Mr. Kameshwar Prasad was elected as President whereas Sri Vijay Pratap Singh and Mr. A. Sahay were elected as Secretaries. It is pertinent to note that Mr. A. Sahay later elevated as a Judge of the Hon'ble High Court of Jharkhand. It is also interesting to note that in the following year, i.e., in 1977 Sri Roy was elected as Secretary General of the Advocates' Association, who later became first advocate from Ranchi Bench, who was elevated as Judge of the Patna High Court.

Inauguration of High Court of Jharkhand

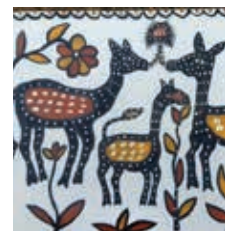
On 15th November, 2000, the Hon'ble High Court of Jharkhand was inaugurated in the premises of High Court at Doranda in the presence of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.S. Anand, former Chief Justice of India and former Union Law Minister Arun Jaitley. High Court of Jharkhand was initially established with the sanctioned strength of 12 Judges and **Sri Vinod Kumar Gupta** was appointed as Chief Justice.



His Excellency Hon'ble Prabhat Kumar, Former Governor, Jharkhand administering oath to Hon'ble Mr. Justice V.K. Gupta, Former Chief Justice, High Court of Jharkhand



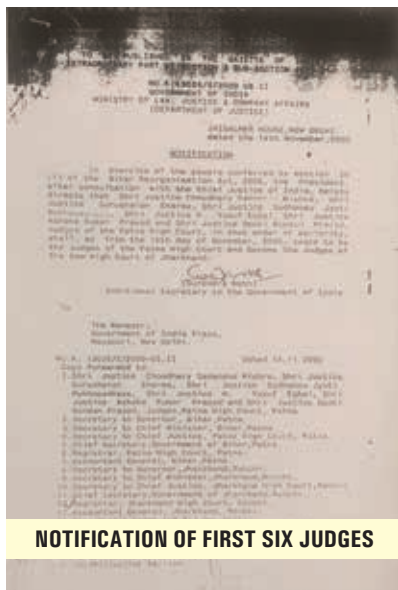
**APPOINTMENT NOTIFICATION
OF FIRST CHIEF JUSTICE**





At the time of inauguration, following six Hon'ble Judges named below assumed charged as Judges of High Court of Jharkhand :

(i) Hon'ble Mr. Justice Choudhary S. N. Mishra (ii) Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gurusharan Sharma (iii) Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.J. Mukhopadhaya (iv) Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Y. Eqbal (v) Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashoke Kumar Prasad and (vi) Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deoki Nandan Prasad.

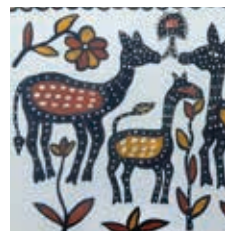


First Bench of High Court of Jharkhand

Glimpses of Inaugural Day of Jharkhand High Court, Ranchi on 15.11.2000



Left to Right : Late Sri A.S. Anand, Former Chief Justice of India, Sri Prabhat Kumar, Former Governor, Sri Babulal Marandi, Former Chief Minister, Sri R.S. Dhawan, Former Judge, Patna High Court & Late Sri Arun Jaitley, Former Minister, Law and Justice, Govt. of India addressing the gathering.





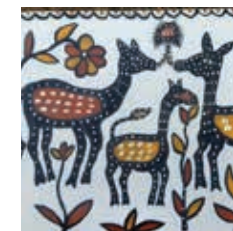
Left to Right : Late Sri Arun Jaitley, Former Minister, Law and Justice, Govt. of India, Late Sri A.S. Anand, Former Chief Justice of India inaugurating the programme by lighting of lamp.



Left to Right : Late Sri A.S. Anand, Former Chief Justice of India addressing the gathering. Sri Prabhat Kumar, Former Governor, Late Sri Arun Jaitley, Former Minister, Law and Justice, Govt. of India, Sri Babulal Marandi, Former Chief Minister are attending the programme.



Left to Right : Late Sri Arun Jaitley, Former Minister, Law and Justice, Govt. of India, Late Sri A.S. Anand, Former Chief Justice of India, Sri Prabhat Kumar, Former Governor, Sri R.S. Dhawan, Former Chief Justice, Patna High Court and Ld. Advocates attending the programme.





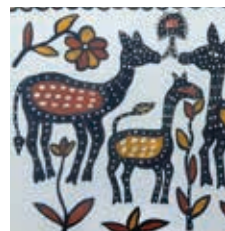
Swift Pace of Disposal of cases

Since its establishment as permanent High Court, there has always been a visible effort to ensure that the disposal of cases in an effective manner outpaces institution. Notably, despite a geometric increase in case filings, the High Court has maintained a swift pace, often exceeding the rate of institution and the speed of clock of justice delivery has been equally quick and at times even better than that of institution. The following table is self explanatory and shows that the rate of disposal has gone up from 97 % in the year 2000 to 108 % in the year 2025.

Year	Civil Cases (Institution)	Disposal of Civil Cases	Criminal Cases (Institution)	Disposal of Criminal Cases
2000	7838	7628	11099	10746
2025	10139	11391	23263	24939

Year	Total Institution	Total Disposal	Disposal Rate
2000	18937	18374	97%
2025	33402	36330	108%

“When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better too.”





VIGNETTES FROM THE PAST

*"Who control the past
Controls the future."*

– George Orwell

ON THIS DAY,
15 November 2000
THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND WAS ESTABLISHED
INAUGURATED BY
THE HONBLE DR. ADARSH SEIN ANAND,
CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA
IN THE PRESENCE OF
THE HONBLE VINOD KUMAR GUPTA,
ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE
THE HONBLE ARUN JAITLEY,
MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE
AND COMPANY AFFAIRS,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
THE HONBLE RAVI S. DHAVAN,
CHIEF JUSTICE
HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE
AT PATNA, BIHAR

पटना उच्च न्यायालय के
सर्किट कोर्ट, राँची
का
उद्घाटन
मुख्य न्यायाधिपति, श्री उज्जल नारायण सिन्हा
बार-एट-ला द्वारा दिनांक ६ मार्च, १९७२ ई.
को सम्पन्न किया गया।



Cricket Tournament



Justice P.N. Bhagwati flanked
by P.S. Dayal, Sr. Advocate and Ram Balak Mahto,
Advocate General Bihar



Justice P.N. Bhagwati with Justice Satyeshwar Roy
and other dignitaries



Winner of Annual Cricket Tournament
between Bench and Bar



Smiling away to glory, Justice Amareshwar Sahay



Justice S.B. Sinha discussing the nuances of cricket
with senior members of Bar



Mid-field conversation during
Cricket Match





Justice S.K. Chattopadhyay and Justice B.P. Singh giving batting tips to the younger members of the Bar



Justice Aftab Alam receiving Winner's Trophy from Shri Debi Prasad, Sr. Advocate.



Justice Amareshwar Sahay along with his team members ready to take on the opposition.



Sri V.P. Singh, Sr. Advocate receiving prize from Shri B.B. Sinha.



Justice Narayan Roy, Justice M.Y. Eqbal, Justice S.K. Chattopadhyay and Justice Loknath Prasad witnessing the final Table Tennis Tournament in the High Court.



Justice Gurusharan Sharma and other Hon'ble Judges inaugurating the Carrom Tournament.





Badminton Tournament

on 2nd & 3rd August, 2025



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan, Chief Justice, High Court of Jharkhand alongwith Hon'ble Judges of High Court of Jharkhand during Badminton Championship



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rongon Mukhopadhyay, Judge, High Court of Jharkhand playing badminton



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Kumar Choudhary, Judge, High Court of Jharkhand playing badminton





HALF MARATHON

on 1st November, 2025 on the occasion of Silver Jubilee Celebration



Welcome Traditional Dance during Half Marathon



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan, Chief Justice, High Court of Jharkhand addressing the participants





Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan, Chief Justice, High Court of Jharkhand & Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Anubha Rawat Choudhary, Judge, High Court of Jharkhand with local artists.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan, Chief Justice, High Court of Jharkhand inaugurating the Half Marathon





Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan, Chief Justice, High Court of Jharkhand alongwith Hon'ble Judges



Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Anubha Rawat Choudhary, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gautam Kumar Choudhary, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Prasad alongwith winners of Half Marathon



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan, Chief Justice, High Court of Jharkhand giving the medal to Hon'ble Mr. Justice Deepak Roshan, Judge, High Court of Jharkhand



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ananda Sen, Judge, High Court of Jharkhand alongwith winners of Half Marathon





BLOOD DONATION CAMP

on 4th November, 2025



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan, Chief Justice, High Court of Jharkhand alongwith Hon'ble Judges of High Court of Jharkhand during Blood Donation Camp





DAY CARE CENTER / CRECHE



HIGH COURT
OF JHARKHAND :
OFFICERS OF
THE REGISTRY





Officers of the Registry of the High Court of Jharkhand (As on 15.11.2025)

Left to Right :

Mr. Chandra Bhanu Kumar, Deputy Registrar, Dedicated Cell, Mr. Rajiv Ranjan, Member Secretary, S.C.M.S., Mr. Diwakar Pandey, Registrar (Judicial), Mr. Nikesh Kumar Sinha, Registrar (Vigilance), Mr. Satya Prakash Sinha, Registrar General, Mr. Vishwa Nath Shukla, Registrar (Administration), Mr. Ashok Kumar No. 2, Registrar (Establishment), Mr. Sanjay Kumar No. 2, Central Project Coordinator, e-Courts Project Mr. Soumen Sikdar, (Secretary, HCLSC),
Mrs. Shikha Agrawal, Deputy Secretary, SCMS Secretariat



FRONT VIEW OF HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND



CONFERENCE HALL OF NEW HIGH COURT BUILDING



JHALSA :
JUSTICE AT DOORSTEP



Jharkhand State Legal Services Authority (JHALSA) : An Institution dedicated to Justice for all

– Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad

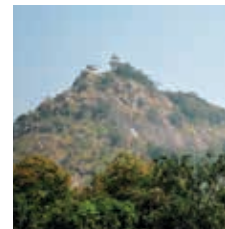
Judge, High Court of Jharkhand & Executive Chairman, JHALSA



Justice for all is the bedrock of a fair society, ensuring that everyone is treated equally and without bias. It upholds human rights, protect the vulnerables and promotes social harmony. These tenets also echoed in our national freedom struggle and found a documented place in the chapter of Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of the State Policy of our Constitution. With the passage of time, the concept of Free Legal Aid got momentum and eventually found a place in the form of Article 39A of the Constitution of India as well. The establishment of National Legal Services Authority at National level and State Legal Services Authorities at State level was step

further in making the aspiration of Free Legal Aid a reality in the light of enactment of Legal Services Authority Act, 1987. It was further strengthened with deepening of work of Legal Services Authorities at District Level and Taluka Level. The aim and objective has been to ensure that the seekers of justice should not be devoid of their rights merely due to any form of disability, including social, economical, political, geographical or physical. On these footing since the formation of state of Jharkhand coupled with formation of permanent High Court, Jharkhand State Legal Services Authority (JHALSA) was also established in the year 2001 and since then it has been tirelessly working to ensure that justice reaches to the door step of last and the least.

The Jharkhand State Legal Services Authority has been a beacon of justice through various ADR Mechanism including Lok Adalat, National Lok Adalat, Mediation, etc. **This efforts of JHALSA are recognized at National Level which reflect from the fact that District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ranchi has won best DLSA award for three consecutive years in 2015, 2016, 2017.** Further the efforts of JHALSA are also appreciated during subsequent years in every sphere pan India and the recognition in the form of accolades has been an ongoing success story for JHALSA. The achievements mentioned below are a mere glimpse of committment of JHALSA to make its motto a reality :





Best Para Legal Volunteer (PLV) Award

- ❖ 'National Best PLV Award' to Smt. Basanti Gope of Chaibasa DLSA by NALSA on 9th November, 2017 on Legal Services Day at New Delhi.
- ❖ 'Best PLV Award in Eastern Zone' to Sri Mangla Dehri, PLV, DLSA Dumka by NALSA on 9th November, 2018 at New Delhi.

Best State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) Award

- ❖ 'Best SLSA Award' to Jharkhand State Legal Services Authority, Ranchi in Eastern Zone by NALSA for two consecutive years (2018 and 2019).

Best Panel Lawyer Award

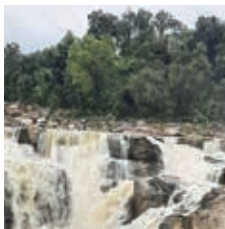
- ❖ 'Best Panel Lawyer Award' in Eastern Zone to Mr. Boyer Singh Nag, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Khunti by NALSA on 9th November, 2019 at New Delhi.

Best District Legal Service Authority (DLSA) Award

- ❖ 'National Best DLSA Award' to District Legal Services Authority, Ranchi, by NALSA given on Constitution Day for the year 2015, 2016 & 2017.
- ❖ 'National Best DLSA Award' to District Legal Services Authority, Gumla, by NALSA given on Constitution Day for the year 2019.

JHALSA in the Book of Records

- ❖ **Limca Book of Records:** National Record for opening of 500 Legal Literacy Clubs in 500 School on a single day on 10th December, 2016
- ❖ **India Book Records:** Largest sum of money (Rs. 3740141887) distributed among people in a single day on the occasion of Constitution Day on 26th November, 2019
- ❖ **India Book Records:** Largest sum of money (Rs. 1398.20 Crore) distributed among people in a single day on the occasion of Constitution Day on 26th November, 2020
- ❖ **World Record India:** Maximum disposal of cases and disbursement of amount (Rs. 1398.20 Crore) on single day in Services Lok Adalat on 26th November, 2020
- ❖ **India Justice Report 2022** ranked State of Jharkhand No.1 in the country in the field of 'Legal Aid'





Initiatives of Short Films and Reel Making for Legal Awareness

- ❖ Winner from the North Zone in Nationwide Reel Making and Short Film Competition: The entry submitted by DLSA, Ranchi (Jharkhand) on the theme Lok Adalat and Mediation has been adjudged as a Winner from the North Zone, in the Short Film category in Nationwide Reel Making and Short Film Competition, “Connecting with the Cause”.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, the then Chief Justice of India-cum-Patron-in-Chief, NALSA, Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.R. Gavai, Judge, Supreme Court of India & the then Executive Chairman, NALSA, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India & the then Chairman, SCLSC felicitated the Winner Team (North Zone) of Jharkhand in the Short Film category in Nationwide Reel Making and Short Film Competition, “Connecting with the Cause” in felicitating Ceremony at Supreme Court of India, New Delhi on 30.04.2025





Appraisal by NALSA for National Lok Adalat

- ❖ Fourth National Lok Adalat - 14 December, 2024 : JHALSA emerged as the top-performing State/UT achieving the highest disposal rate of 99.49%".
- ❖ "Jharkhand emerged as the top-performing State/UT in the category of pre-litigation cases in the 4th National Lok Adalat, achieving the highest disposal rate of 99.59%."
- ❖ "Pre-Litigation Cases: Jharkhand achieved the highest disposal at 99.98%
- ❖ Total Cases: Jharkhand achieved the highest disposal at 99.95%



Left to Right: Sri Nirmal Kumar Bharti, Under Secretary, Sri Arpit Shrivastava, Deputy Secretary, Ms. Kumari Ranjana Asthana, Member Secretary, Deepak Kumar Sahu, Under Secretary, Sri Abhishek Kumar, Deputy Registrar (Deputy Secretary)





JHALSA : Sparkling Success

Performance of LADCS	Highest disposal of Criminal Cases across the country by LADC of Jharkhand	Total disposal at National Level by all SLSA 154077	JHALSA 16554	Secured 1st Position
Legal Aid Beneficiaries	Highest number of Legal Aid Beneficiaries	Total beneficiaries at National Level by all SLSA 1336425	JHALSA 219087	Secured 1st Position
Beneficiaries	Highest number of beneficiaries in Mega Legal Empowerment Camps	Total Beneficiaries at National Level by all SLSAs 5228567	JHALSA 4055500	Secured 1st Position

Success Story-1

Swift Legal Action and Outreach by JHALSA in Response to Witch- Hunting Tragedy in Lohardaga

On 10th October 2025, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad, Judge, High Court of Jharkhand & Executive Chairman, JHALSA, took cognizance of the brutal murder of three family members in Ketrang Bartoli village, under Peshrar Police Station in Lohardaga district. Within hours, the team from District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Lohardaga, reached the village and provided ₹20,000 as emergency financial aid to the bereaved family. Additionally, the process for granting free legal aid and compensation under the Victim Compensation Scheme was also begun.

This prompt and coordinated response by JHALSA ensured timely relief and justice for the victims' family







BUILDING OF JUDICIAL ACADEMY



ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK OF JUDICIAL ACADEMY

JUDICIAL ACADEMY JHARKHAND : A KNOWLEDGE GATEWAY



Judicial Academy Jharkhand: A Legacy of Learning and Leadership

–Justice Rongon Mukhopadhyay

Judge, High Court of Jharkhand & Judge-in-Charge, Judicial Academy Jharkhand



After creation of state of Jharkhand on 15.11.2000 it was a big challenge to cater the need to hone the skills of stakeholders of justice system. To fulfil this aspiration the Judicial Academy Jharkhand was established through a Gazette Notification dated 7th March, 2002 and commenced its functioning on 04.01.2002 from the premises of Shri Krishna Institute of Public Administration (SKIPA), Ranchi and witnessed Induction Training of newly recruited first batch of Judicial Officers.

As the Academic Programmes were increasing covering all aspects of justice delivery system *vis-à-vis* the need to imbibe new technology in day to day working of

the courts as well as to equip the Judicial Officers with the same, a need was felt for a dedicated state of the art centre of judicial training. The initiative for establishing a dedicated complex was undertaken by Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Y. Eqbal, the then Judge of the High Court of Jharkhand and Judge In-charge (Education), Judicial Academy Jharkhand. Accordingly, 6.70 acres of land was allotted at a scenic site near the Dhurwa Dam, Ranchi. The foundation stone of the new campus was graciously laid by Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. G. Balakrishnan, the then Chief Justice of India, along with other distinguished guests on 17th May, 2009. The new campus of Judicial Academy Jharkhand was inaugurated on 10th October, 2015 by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tirath Singh Thakur, Former Chief Justice of India. The aspiration, in due course of time, saw the broad day light in the form of present sprawling structure of Judicial Academy near beautiful Dhurwa Dam having all modern facilities including Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Auditorium, Library, Guest House, Suites for Hon'ble Judges, Hostels, Recreation Center having Gym, Swimming Pool, etc.





The Academy is dedicated to equipping the Judicial Officers of the State, along with other stakeholders in the justice delivery system, with contemporary legal knowledge, professional skills, and judicial values. Its overarching objective is to enhance the quality, efficiency, and sensitivity of justice dispensation within the State judiciary.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tirath Singh Thakur Judge, Supreme Court of India Inaugurating the new building of Judicial Academy Jharkhand



Left to Right

**Sri Amikar Parwar, Administrative Officer,
Sri Satyakam Priyadarshi, Additional Director-I cum Senior Faculty Member,
Sri Rajesh Sharan Singh, Director
Sri Laxmi Kant, Additional Director-II cum Senior Faculty Member**



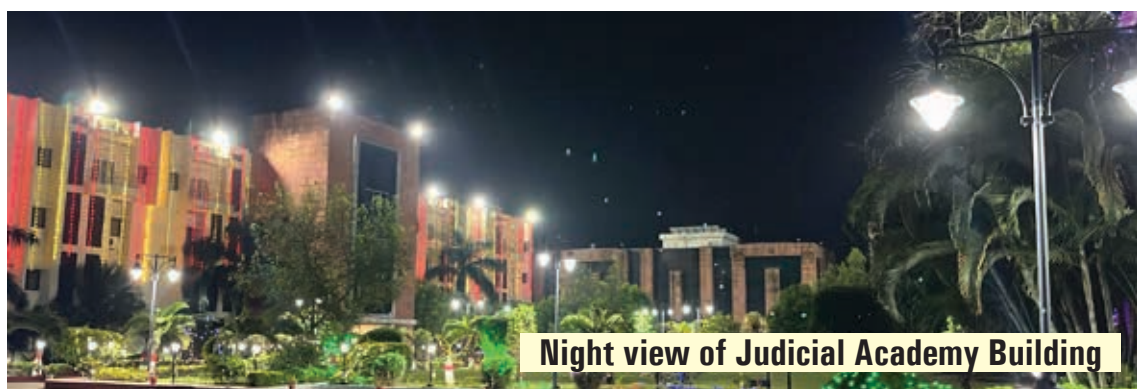


The new campus of the Judicial Academy Jharkhand comprises five principal blocks. The Administrative and Academic Block houses four lecture halls, a computer centre, a group discussion room, conference halls, seminar halls, faculty rooms, offices, chambers, state of the art library, and a canteen. The Auditorium Block accommodates 467 participants. The Residential Complex consists of two hostels—Damodar and Swarnarekha—providing 66 double-occupancy rooms, 14 suite rooms, and 3 single rooms. The Recreation Centre includes facilities such as a multi-gym, sauna and steam bath, billiards room, table tennis and squash courts, a multipurpose hall-cum-theatre, Judges' Lounge, and a swimming pool (presently). Additionally, the campus features a V.I.P. Guest House and the Director's Bungalow as well.

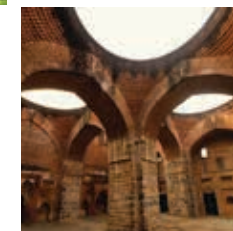


Damodar Hostel

The Academy conducts Induction Training Programmes for newly appointed Judicial Officers and Refresher Courses for in-service Judicial Officers. It also organizes training programmes for Public Prosecutors, Advocates, Police Officers, and the administrative staff of the High Court and subordinate judiciary. Furthermore, the Academy hosts Seminars, Workshops, Symposiums, and Conferences on contemporary and emerging legal issues. It actively engages in research projects in collaboration with various government institutions.



Night view of Judicial Academy Building





Sensitization Workshop on Criminal Laws: 26.07.2025

From Left to Right: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rongon Mukhopadhyay, Judge High Court Jharkhand cum Judge In Charge, Judicial Academy, Jharkhand, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan, Chief Justice, High Court of Jharkhand cum Patron-in-Chief, Judicial Academy, Jharkhand, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Joymalya Bagchi, Judge, Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad, Judge High Court Jharkhand, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ambuj Nath, Judge High Court Jharkhand

The Jharkhand Judicial Academy places strong emphasis on enriching the intellectual and professional resources available to judicial officers. To ensure that training and research remain contemporary and comprehensive, the Academy provides access to leading digital legal databases such as SCC Online, Supreme Today, Manupatra, LiveLaw, LexisNexis, and EBC Reader, enabling officers to stay abreast of the latest judicial pronouncements, statutes, and legal developments. Complementing these digital tools, the Academy also maintains a well-stocked physical library with standard reference materials, including Jharkhand Law Journal Reports (JLJR) and other authoritative legal publications. In addition to these resources, the Academy regularly publishes study materials, research compendiums, and newsletters designed to keep judicial officers and other stakeholders well-informed about emerging trends, policy developments, and judicial best practices. The reading materials and publications of the Judicial Academy are digitally available with an open access at : https://jajharkhand.in/wp/?page_id=117/.





These initiatives collectively create a vibrant ecosystem of learning and knowledge-sharing, reinforcing the Academy's mission to promote excellence, awareness, and innovation in judicial education.



The Judicial Academy Jharkhand has attained a significant milestone in fulfilling its mandate of capacity building and continuous judicial education within the justice delivery system. Based on a meticulous assessment of participant records explicitly documented in the training schedules from the academic year 2005–06 up to the conclusion of the planned 2025–26 period, the Academy has successfully trained or sensitized a minimum of 33,716 officers and participants.

This impressive figure reflects the Academy's extensive engagement with a diverse spectrum of stakeholders integral to the administration of justice comprising Judicial Officers across all cadres (including District Judges, Civil Judges, Chief Judicial Magistrates, and Additional Chief Judicial Magistrates), as well as Public Prosecutors, Police Officers, Advocates and their Clerks, officers and staff of the High Court and District Courts, and officials from government departments, non-governmental organizations, and banks.

Since the Academy commenced operations in 2002, the cumulative number of personnel trained through its various programmes is considerably higher than the already recorded total, underscoring its sustained and expanding contribution to judicial capacity building in the State.





The Academy regularly conducts Induction Training Programmes for newly appointed Judicial Officers, Refresher Training Courses for in-service Judicial Officers, and ECT Programmes in accordance with the Supreme Court's E-Committee Recommendation, thereby ensuring that judicial personnel remain abreast of evolving procedural, technological, and substantive legal developments.

Over the years, the Academy has undertaken several programmes in association with the National Judicial Academy (NJA), Bhopal, including the East Zone Regional Conferences, encompassing the States of Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Sikkim, Manipur, and Mizoram. These regional platforms have served as vital forums for dialogue, exchange of best practices, and harmonization of judicial approaches across jurisdictions in Eastern and North-Eastern India. The Judicial Academy, Jharkhand has a collaborative arrangement with the Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack under the "Sharing of Best Practices Programme", through which Judicial Officers from both States visit each other's academies to exchange ideas and enhance learning through mutual experience.

The Academy has also organized international training programmes in collaboration with prestigious institutions such as the CEELI Institute, Prague, and the Federal Judicial Center (FJC), Washington D.C., United States. Notably, the Academy has extended its expertise beyond national borders by conducting specialized judicial training programmes for Judges of Bangladesh, thereby contributing to cross-border capacity-building and the promotion of shared judicial values in the South Asian region.





The Judicial Academy Jharkhand been engaging with stakeholders such as UNICEF and JHALSA for initiatives to sensitize on crimes against women and children, POCSO Act and JJ Act, 2016. The Academy has also organized sensitization and capacity-building programmes on human rights issues, including cyber crime, human trafficking and terrorism, as well as on environmental protection, climate change, and the regulation of mines and minerals, areas that have growing significance in the context of sustainable development and governance.

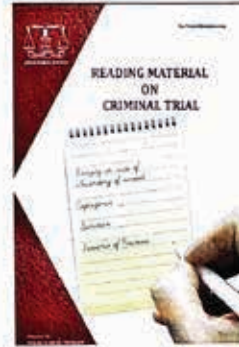
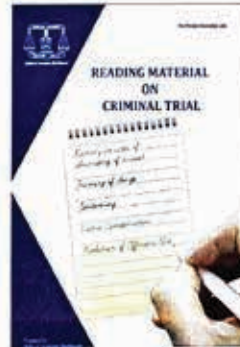
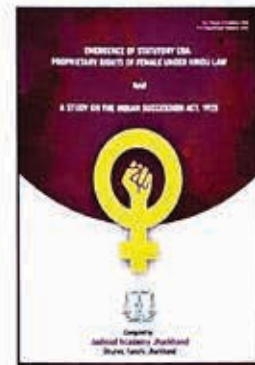
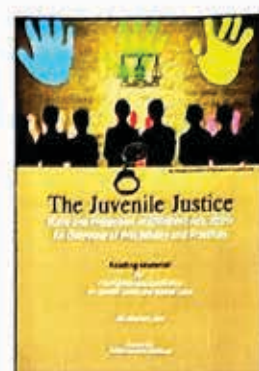
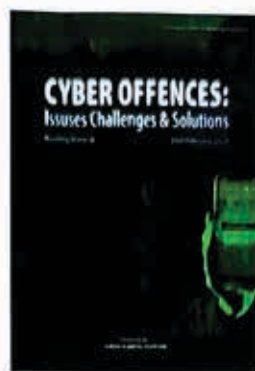
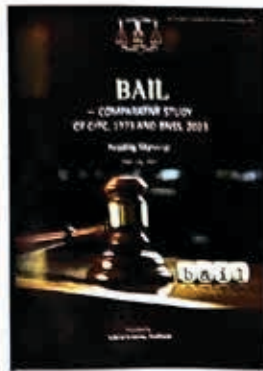
Recognizing that the moral integrity of the judiciary is the cornerstone of public confidence in the justice system, the Academy has been conducting regular programmes on Judicial Ethics and Behaviour, aimed at reinforcing the principles of impartiality, accountability, and public trust among Judicial Officers.

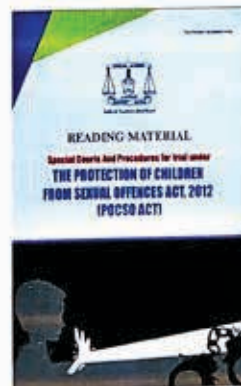
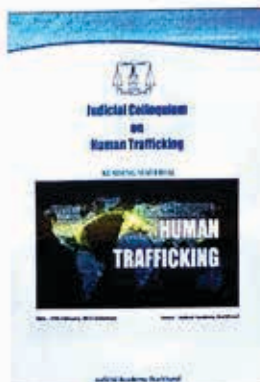
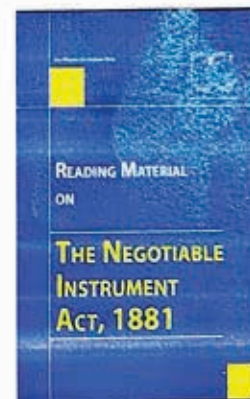
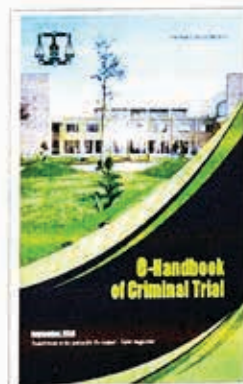
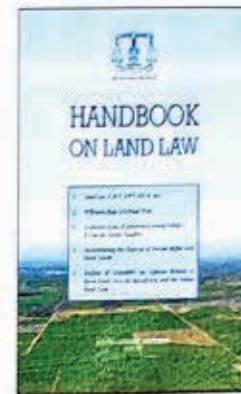
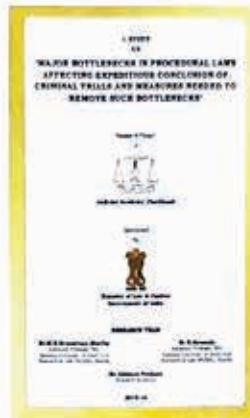
These academic and training endeavors of the Judicial Academy Jharkhand have been graced by the presence and guidance of several distinguished personalities, including Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court of India & different High Courts, Senior Advocates and known personalities of Academia. Through these sustained initiatives, the Judicial Academy Jharkhand has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to fostering a progressive, informed, and ethically grounded judiciary, one that is responsive to the evolving demands of justice in a dynamic socio-legal landscape.





Some of the publications of Judicial Academy are listed below :





CONTOURS
OF LEGAL
EVOLUTION :
AN OVERVIEW
OF
TWENTY-FIVE
YEARS



सत्यमेव जयते



"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."
– Martin Luther King Jr.



CONTOURS OF LEGAL EVOLUTION: AN OVERVIEW OF TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Law is in a constant state of flux, continuously shaped by legislative developments and judicial precedents. Jharkhand, geographically a plateau, is endowed with abundant mineral resources, forests, and wildlife. It is home to diverse tribal communities whose customary laws relating to marriage, succession, and land continue to influence contemporary legal disputes.

The State is also governed by multiple tenancy and revenue laws, while industrial centres such as Jamshedpur, Bokaro, Dhanbad, and Giridih have attracted populations from various regions, contributing to rapid urbanization and social mobility. All these cumulatively gives rise to a rich variety of litigation in the State. This was further accelerated by the formation of the new State in 2000 giving rise to heightened awareness of legal rights and a corresponding increase in litigation, reflected in a steady rise in case pendency over the years. As courts bear the responsibility of safeguarding legal and constitutional rights, judicial decisions have played a pivotal role in the growth of law and in the clarification of legal principles across diverse fields.

While it may not be possible to comprehensively delineate the development of law in Jharkhand over the past two decades, this discussion seeks to highlight certain areas of public and private law where judicial pronouncements have contributed to the evolution and consolidation of legal doctrine in accordance with humanistic jurisprudence. A thematic overview of key subjects and settled legal principles is presented hereunder.

CONSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE — THE JHARKHAND HIGH COURT'S EXPANDING CANVAS OF WRIT AND PIL JURISPRUDENCE

The recent jurisprudence of the Jharkhand High Court reflects an expanded and deeply responsive conception of constitutional accountability, centered on the guarantees of equality, liberty, and dignity. The Court has invalidated exclusionary employment policies based on domicile, reaffirming that residence-based reservations can be imposed only within the strict constitutional framework. It has recognized the need for substantive equality by requiring reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities to ensure genuinely fair participation. The Court has further underscored the sanctity of human dignity by holding that the right to respectful treatment extends beyond life, prohibiting the use of dead bodies for protest and mandating





dignified last rites. In matters concerning sacred and ecologically sensitive spaces, it has harmonized environmental protection with the rights of religious communities, directing the State to safeguard heritage while maintaining ecological balance. The Court has also imposed accountability for violations of personal liberty, including unlawful detention, by directing compensation and corrective measures. Most recently, it has highlighted systemic failures in the tracing of missing children, insisting on strict adherence to established procedures and departmental action against erring officials. Collectively, these interventions mark a broadening of the Court's writ and PIL jurisdiction toward a more humane, equitable, and socially responsible constitutional order.

Equality of Opportunity and Limits of Local Reservation — Invalidating the Scheduled Districts Domicile Rule

1. Prashant Vidyarthi v. State of Jharkhand, 2002 SCC OnLine Jhar 1011 (V.K. Gupta, C.J., Gurusharan Sharma, S.J. Mukhopadhyay, M.Y. Eqbal, Lakshman Uraon, JJ.)

The aforementioned judgment rendered by a 5-bench Constitution Bench dealt with the constitutional validity of two Jharkhand Government notifications (dated 8 and 19 August 2002) defining “local persons” and granting them preference in Class III and IV government employment. The petitioners, through a PIL, challenged these notifications as violative of Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution, arguing that they discriminated against non-locals purely on the basis of residence. The Court examined whether a State could, by executive order, prescribe “local residence” as a condition or criterion for employment preference, especially in the absence of any parliamentary legislation under Article 16(3).

Relying on Supreme Court precedents like *Kailash Chand Sharma v. State of Rajasthan* JT 2002 (5) SC 591 and *A.V.S. Narasimha Rao v. State of Andhra Pradesh* reported in (1969) 1 SCC 839, the Bench held that only Parliament—not a State Government—can prescribe residence requirements for public employment, and that executive orders granting preference based solely on residence are unconstitutional.

The Bench, nonetheless, struck down the definition of “local resident” in the impugned notifications as arbitrary and ultra vires Articles 14 and 16 because it required ancestral linkage or certification by five landowners, effectively excluding bona fide citizens who had settled in Jharkhand for decades, including post-partition migrants. The Court held that such a narrow, exclusionary definition violated equality and the spirit of national citizenship. It advised the State to adopt a more rational and





inclusive definition of “local resident,” similar to one used for educational admissions, and further set aside the definition of ‘local persons’ and guidelines prescribed for determination of local persons under the Resolution dated 19th August, 2002.

Disability Rights and the Principle of Compensatory Equality

2. Arun Kumar Singh v. State of Jharkhand & Ors., W.P.(PIL) No. 4891 of 2012 (Virender Singh, C.J., D.N. Patel, J.)

The Public Interest Litigation had been filed seeking directions to the Respondents to grant compensatory time for “differently abled persons” in all examinations—whether school, college or competitive tests conducted by the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 recognized “State” authorities.

The petitioners submit that life is a gift, and those born differently-abled or who become disabled at any time merit “extra care” from society. They contend that in the interest of equality (Article 14 of the Constitution) they must be given extra lift so that they are not handicapped in competing with similarly situated students or examinees. Granting compensatory time ensures a level playing field in school, college, university and competitive examinations conducted by State authorities within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution.

It is averred that compensatory time should be uniformly provided by all such State exam-authorities so as to enable persons with disabilities to bring out their abilities, and that the principle of equality demands that such accommodation—not merely as a charitable concession—is part of their rights.

Harmonizing environmental preservation with the protection of minority religious traditions

3. Jyot v. State of Jharkhand, 2025 SCC OnLine Jhar 2584 (M.S. Ramachandra Rao, C.J., Deepak Roshan, J.)

The Jharkhand High Court recently in a PIL matter, upheld the sanctity of Parasnath Hill, a site of immense spiritual importance to the Jain community, and directed the State to ensure its protection from desecration and commercialization. The Court recognized Parasnath Hill (Sammed Shikharji) as a “Mahatirtha” where 20 of the 24 Tirthankaras attained nirvana, comparing its religious significance to Mecca or the Vatican. It found merit in the petitioner’s contention that the State’s eco-tourism and developmental activities — including proposals for safaris, cafeterias, and new constructions — violated both the 2019 Eco-Sensitive Zone Notification and the 2023 Office Memorandum issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.





The Bench held that these instruments have the force of law and must be strictly implemented to preserve the site's sacred and environmental character.

In a strong reaffirmation of religious freedom under Part III of the Constitution, the Court directed the State to cease all tourism and mining activities, remove non-religious encroachments, prohibit the sale or consumption of liquor and nonvegetarian food, and deploy more personnel to enforce compliance. Importantly, while protecting Jain religious rights, the Court clarified that it found no conflict with Santhal tribal worship practices, emphasizing mutual respect. The judgment thus harmonized environmental preservation with the protection of minority religious traditions, ensuring that the State bears an affirmative duty to safeguard the sanctity, peace, and ecological balance of Parasnath Hill as an inseparable part of Jain faith and heritage.

Accountability for Police Lapses in Missing Child Investigations

4. Bodhi Pandit v. State of Jharkhand & Others, 2024 SCC OnLine Jhar 758 (Rajesh Shankar, J.)

In this case, the Jharkhand High Court examined the prolonged and ineffective investigation relating to the disappearance of a minor girl, Priti Kumari, and addressed the State's responsibility in safeguarding missing children. The petitioner's sister, Tekni Devi, had initially lodged an FIR in 2010 alleging kidnapping of her sixteen-year-old daughter by relatives of her in-laws. However, despite registration of the case under Section 366(A)/34 IPC, the police failed to act with promptness and seriousness. The mother repeatedly approached the authorities but no substantial progress was made in tracing the missing child. During the pendency of the writ petition filed in 2011 seeking proper investigation, Tekni Devi herself was murdered in 2016, allegedly due to disputes stemming from the kidnapping incident. Subsequently, the petitioner, her brother, was substituted in her place. Although Special Investigation Teams were constituted and multiple Investigating Officers changed, the girl could not be traced; and ultimately, the criminal trials for both the kidnapping and murder cases ended in acquittal due to lack of evidence and hostile witnesses.

The Court observed that the investigation suffered from glaring deficiencies and lack of diligence on part of the police authorities. It emphasised that the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for tracing missing children, as mandated by the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Women & Child Development, was not followed in letter and spirit. The Court noted that the failure to provide protection to the informant,





who was later killed, highlighted a systemic lapse. Although the writ petition had become infructuous in view of the acquittal of accused persons and the continued untraceability of the victim, the Court stressed that the State remains accountable for investigative failures. It directed the State to initiate appropriate departmental action against the erring police officials and reiterated the obligation to ensure strict compliance with SOPs in all missing-children matters, noting that justice must include both case-specific redress and systemic corrective measures to prevent recurrence of such lapses.

Police Compliance and Coercive Restraint and the Sanctity of Liberty

5. Ajit Kumar v. State of Jharkhand, 2023 SCC OnLine Jhar 986 (Sanjay Kumar Dwivedi J.)

In the instant case, the Jharkhand High Court dealt with the issue of illegal detention and the constitutional right to compensation under Article 21. The petitioner had been falsely implicated in a murder and rape case and detained for over four months, despite the alleged victim later being found alive. The Court held that such unlawful detention amounted to a clear violation of the petitioner's fundamental right to life and personal liberty under Article 21. Referring to precedents such as *S. Nambi Narayanan v. Siby Mathews* (2018) 10 SCC 804 and *D.K. Basu v. State of West Bengal* (1997) 1 SCC 416, the Court reiterated that compensation under public law can be awarded where State action results in violation of fundamental rights, irrespective of the availability of private remedies in tort or criminal law.

The Court emphasised that the police had acted negligently and without due diligence, thereby causing irreparable harm to the petitioner's dignity, career, and reputation. Citing *Joginder Kumar v. State of U.P.* and *Sube Singh v. State of Haryana*, it reaffirmed that personal liberty cannot be compromised by arbitrary or careless actions of law enforcement, and that such violations invite judicial intervention under Article 226. Recognising the petitioner's illegal detention as an admitted fact, the Court awarded ₹5,00,000 as compensation, granting the State the liberty to recover the amount from the erring police officials. It observed that while no monetary relief could fully restore the trauma and humiliation faced, compensation served as a constitutional remedy to uphold human dignity and deter future administrative arbitrariness.





CUSTOMARY LAWS, CNT AND SPT ACT

The Jharkhand High Court, through a series of considered pronouncements, has elucidated the interplay between customary law, statutory provisions under the Chotanagpur Tenancy (CNT) Act, 1908, and the Santhal Pargana Tenancy (SPT) Act, 1949. These rulings underscore the Court's nuanced approach in balancing statutory mandates, hereditary customs, and individual rights, particularly with respect to succession, inheritance, and restoration of tenancy rights. The Court has repeatedly emphasized that while customary practices carry significant weight, they must be harmonized with statutory law and principles of equality under the Constitution.

Hereditary rights of succession of Tribal Women

1. In Alamuni Hansda v. State of Jharkhand, 2023 SCC OnLine Jhar 228 (Aparesh Kumar Singh, Ratnaker Bhengra, Anil Kumar Choudhary, J.J.)

The present case, *Alamuni Hansda v. State of Jharkhand*, 2023 SCC OnLine Jhar 228, arose from a writ petition challenging the order of the Divisional Commissioner, Santhal Pargana Division, which had set aside the appointment of the petitioner, Alamuni Hansda, as the Village Headman (Pradhan). The petitioner, who was the married daughter of the erstwhile Pradhan, Maral Hansda, was appointed by the Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) and confirmed by the Deputy Commissioner, based on her claim of hereditary right. The Commissioner, however, annulled this appointment, observing a serious dispute among the raiyats (tenants) of the village and directing a fresh proceeding to be initiated under Section 5 of the Santhal Pargana Tenancy (Supplementary Provisions) Act, 1949 (SPT Act), to ensure the appointment aligned with village custom and democratic principles. Due to conflicting Division Bench judgments on the core legal issues, the matter was ultimately referred to a Larger Bench of the Jharkhand High Court for an authoritative pronouncement.

The core legal issue before the Larger Bench was multifaceted, revolving around the statutory interpretation of the SPT Act and the Schedule-V Rules governing the appointment of a Pradhan. Specifically, the Court had to determine whether the office of the Village Headman is hereditary, and crucially, whether a female heir, like a married daughter, is eligible to succeed to the office under the Act. A related issue was the requirement of the Deputy Commissioner to satisfy himself regarding the candidate's general acceptability by the raiyats, even when the claim was based on hereditary right.

The Court undertook a detailed examination of Schedule-V, Clause 3 of the SPT Act, which pertains to succession. It conclusively held that the office of the Village





Headman is hereditary, and that the right of inheritance is the primary factor to be considered for appointment. Crucially, the Bench affirmed that a female heir, including a married daughter, is eligible to succeed to the office of the Pradhan. The Court noted that the statutory phrase "next heir" in the Act does not create any bar based on gender or marital status; a female can only be refused succession if she is considered "unfit" for the post, and such unfitness must be recorded with specific reasons. The Court therefore set aside the conflicting orders and remitted the matter back to the Deputy Commissioner to proceed afresh, ensuring that the process laid down in the judgment is strictly followed to determine the petitioner's final appointment

Finality of Settlement Records and Reasonable Limitation in Santhal Parganas Land Disputes

2. Haponmay Murmu & Ors. v. The Commissioner, Santhal Pargana Division, Dumka & Ors., L.P.A. Nos. 384 & 386 of 2021, decided on 02 May 2025 (Sujit Narayan Prasad, Rajesh Kumar, JJ.)

In this case, the Jharkhand High Court examined whether objections regarding entries in the record of rights finalized during the historic McPherson and Gantzer Settlements could be reopened after more than a century. The appellants, Santhal residents of Godda district, asserted that their ancestors were wrongly dispossessed around 1905–1908 and sought correction of Jamabandi records. Although their objection was initially rejected in 2002, the Settlement Officer later allowed alteration in 2008. However, on revision, the Commissioner set aside the correction and held that such settled entries could not be disturbed after an inordinate delay. The writ petitions challenging the Commissioner's order were dismissed, leading to the present Letters Patent Appeals.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad, speaking for the Division Bench, emphasized the importance of finality in settled land records and reiterated that even where the Santhal Parganas Settlement Regulation, 1872 does not prescribe a specific limitation period under Regulation 25(3), objections must nonetheless be raised within a reasonable time. Relying on precedents such as *Jai Mangal Oraon v. Mira Nayak* and *Situ Sahu v. State of Jharkhand* (2000) 5 SCC 141, the Court observed that permitting reopening of century-old claims would lead to uncertainty in land ownership and destabilize settled possession.





The Court noted that the appellants' ancestors had already raised objections during the McPherson Settlement, which were decided against them and never pursued thereafter. Reviving the same dispute after a lapse of more than 100 years was held to be untenable and contrary to principles of repose, fairness, and the need to preserve stability in land tenure. Accordingly, the Division Bench affirmed the dismissal of the claims and held that tribal protective tenancy laws cannot be stretched to unsettle ancient adjudications. The Letters Patent Appeals were therefore dismissed as devoid of merit.

Adoption Rights of Widows Under Santhal Customary Law

3. Narayan Soren & Ors. v. Ranjan Murmu & Ors., 2008 SCC OnLine Jhar 413 (M.Y. Eqbal, J.)

The Jharkhand High Court in *Narayan Soren & Ors. v. Ranjan Murmu & Ors.* (2008 SCC OnLine Jhar 413; AIR 2009 Jhar 23) dealt with the question of whether a Santhal widow possesses the right to adopt a child under Santhal customary law. The plaintiffs contended that no such custom existed and that, upon the husband's death without issue, property devolved upon surviving male agnates. The defendants, however, established through oral and documentary evidence that the Santhal custom recognizes a widow's competence to adopt a child, provided traditional ceremonies like Bonga Tola and Nim Da Mari are duly performed. Both the trial court and the appellate court found that the custom permitted adoption by a widow, supported by testimonies and a registered deed, and that such practice was long recognized within Santhal tradition.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.Y. Eqbal, affirming the lower courts, elaborated extensively on Santhal customary laws and cited anthropological authorities such as W.G. Archer and Gantzer's Settlement Reports, which documented instances where Santhal widows adopted sons "for their dead husbands." The Court emphasized that Santhal customs have evolved to grant women more participatory rights within the family and property structures, aligning with the constitutional vision of gender equality as echoed in *Madhu Kishwar v. State of Bihar* (1996). The Court held that when the defendants had proved the existence of such a custom, the burden shifted to the plaintiffs to prove otherwise something they failed to do. Consequently, the Court upheld the widow's right of adoption under Santhal custom, recognizing it as a legitimate and time-honoured practice, thus affirming the evolving status and rights of tribal women within their customary framework.





Upholding Women's Inheritance Rights: Evolving Equality in Customary Law

4. Ismail Hansda & Ors. v. Mathias Murmu & Ors., S.A. No. 309 of 2016, Decided on 8 July 2025 (Anubha Rawat Choudhary, J.)

The case involved the inheritance of property belonging to Harma Murmu, a Santhal with only one daughter, Joba Murmu. The plaintiffs, agnates of Harma Murmu claimed exclusive rights, asserting that Santhal custom barred daughters from inheriting ancestral property unless married in the gharjamai form. The defendants, descendants of Joba Murmu, argued that contemporary Santhal practices, supported by the Gantzer's Settlement Report (1922–35), recognized daughters' inheritance rights where no sons existed.

The Court examined whether the exclusion of females from inheritance met the requirements of a valid custom as outlined in *Laxmibai v. Bhagwantbuwa* (2013) and *Madhu Kishwar v. State of Bihar* (1996). Justice Choudhary held that the plaintiffs failed to establish that such exclusionary custom was ancient, certain, continuous, and uniformly followed. On the contrary, historical and social evidence indicated a gradual evolution within the Santhal community toward recognizing daughters' rights in succession.

Holding that unproven or discriminatory customs cannot override general inheritance law; the Court affirmed the right of Joba Murmu's descendants to inherit the property. This decision marks a significant advancement in gender justice within tribal societies, reaffirming that customs inconsistent with constitutional values of equality and fairness have no binding legal force.

Gender equality in inheritance was further reaffirmed

5. Prabha Minz v. Martha Ekka & Ors.; S.A. No. 127 of 2014, Decided on 22.04.2022 (Gautam Kumar Choudhary, J.)

In this decision, the Jharkhand High Court examined the validity of an alleged Oraon customary rule excluding women from inheritance, in the context of succession to ancestral land governed by the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act. The appellant, an Oraon woman, claimed title to land inherited through her mother, whereas the respondents asserted that, by tribal custom, females were not entitled to inherit, and claimed the right to transfer the property as agnatic heirs.

The Court held that customary law must be proved to be ancient, certain, uniform, and reasonable, and cannot be recognized where it is uncertain, discriminatory, or





inconsistent with contemporary social values. The burden to establish the alleged custom rested upon those asserting it. Upon examining documentary evidence including service records and electoral rolls, the Court found that the respondents failed to establish their descent from the recorded tenant, and thus had no valid title to convey. The sale deed executed under Section 46 of the CNT Act was therefore declared void.

On the broader issue of inheritance, the Court relied on precedents such as *Madhu Kishwar v. State of Bihar* and *Laxmibai v. Bhagwantbuwa*, and affirmed that customs excluding women from succession cannot be accepted unless their existence is conclusively demonstrated and shown to be consistent with principles of justice and social evolution. Justice Choudhary emphasized that customary law is not static, and its application must align with constitutional guarantees of equality.

The appeal was accordingly allowed and the suit decreed in favour of the appellant, declaring the impugned transfer illegal.

This judgment reinforces that gender-discriminatory customs in tribal inheritance cannot prevail without strict evidentiary substantiation, and reaffirms the constitutional imperative of equality within customary legal systems.

This principle was subsequently relied upon by the Supreme Court in *Ram Charan & Ors. v. Sukhram & Ors.*, 2025 INSC 865 (per Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Sanjay Karol), where *Prabha Minz* was cited to reiterate that customs and traditions must conform to constitutional morality and cannot be enforced if they perpetuate gender-based discrimination. The Supreme Court endorsed the view that tribal customs are not static and must evolve in harmony with equality, dignity, and social justice, thereby reinforcing the judicial commitment to protecting the property rights of tribal women.

Recognition of Ghar-Damad Custom and Inheritance Rights of Tribal Women in the Oraon Community

6. Gondauri Devi & Ors. v. Mangra Oraon & Ors., Second Appeal No. 104 of 2001 (Pradeep Kumar Srivastava, J.)

Justice Pradeep Kumar Srivastava delivered a significant judgment reinforcing the inheritance rights of tribal women and their heirs within the Oraon community. The dispute concerned ownership of ancestral land originally belonging to Gandura Oraon, whose only daughter, Jhari Orain, married Royon Oraon in a ghar-damad arrangement (where the son-in-law resides with the wife's family). Following





Gandura's death, the property was mutated in Jhari's name, and her heirs continued in possession until being unlawfully dispossessed by the defendants, who claimed that only male heirs could inherit under Oraon custom.

The trial court upheld the plaintiffs' claim, but the first appellate court reversed it. On second appeal, the High Court found that the lower appellate court had ignored crucial evidence confirming the ghar-damad relationship and the family's continued possession. Relying on *Budhu Oraon v. Biras Mani Minz* (2002), Justice Srivastava reaffirmed the validity of the ghar-damad custom, under which a son-in-law residing with and serving his father-in-law may inherit property. He further held that mutation entries are merely administrative and do not determine ownership.

Emphasizing that customary law must evolve with principles of equality and justice, the Court rejected rigid male-centric interpretations that perpetuate discrimination. The judgment restored the trial court's decree in favour of the plaintiffs, affirming their right, title, and possession over the disputed land. This ruling marks a progressive application of tribal customary law aligned with constitutional values of gender justice and social equity.

Invalidity of Transfers of Mundari Khunt Kattidari Land under Section 240 of the CNT Act

7. Hem Prasad Singh Munda & Ors. v. Srikant Singh Munda & Ors., Second Appeal, decided on 18 September 2025 (Pradeep Kumar Srivastava, J.)

In this case, the Jharkhand High Court examined the validity of a transfer of Mundari Khunt Kattidari tenancy land under Section 240 of the Chotanagpur Tenancy (CNT) Act, 1908. The dispute arose between members of the Munda community regarding land recorded in the name of one Bigal Singh Munda, a Mundari Khunt Kattidari raiyat. The plaintiffs claimed title through a registered sale deed executed in 1943 by Bigal Singh Munda in favour of their predecessors, asserting continuous possession since then. The defendants, however, contended that upon the raiyat's death, his widow had surrendered the same land to the Khunt Kattidari landlords in 1947, and therefore the earlier sale deed conferred no title. The trial court and first appellate court decreed in favour of the plaintiffs, leading the defendants to file the present second appeal.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pradeep Kumar Srivastava held that Mundari Khunt Kattidari land enjoys special statutory protection under Section 240 of the CNT Act, which categorically prohibits its transfer except in limited circumstances expressly provided by law. The Court observed that the sale deed dated 16.05.1943, through





which the plaintiffs claimed their right, was executed by a Khunt Kattidari tenant in violation of this statutory bar and was therefore void ab initio. It was further held that no title can be acquired on the basis of a transfer prohibited by statute, and even registration cannot validate a void transaction under Section 240(6). The Court also noted that the issue of legality of the transfer, being a pure question of law, could be raised even at the second appeal stage.

Since the courts below had failed to consider the mandatory statutory prohibition and had thereby arrived at findings contrary to law, their judgments were set aside. The plaintiffs' suit for declaration of right, title, and confirmation of possession was dismissed as devoid of merit. The Court reiterated that the protective objective of the CNT Act is to prevent alienation of tribal land and preserve the integrity of the Mundari Khunt Kattidari system. Both parties were directed to bear their own costs.

PROPERTY RIGHTS AND LAW OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

The Jharkhand High Court has, through multiple judgments, consistently highlighted the nuanced balance between formal statutory requirements and equitable considerations in matters of property rights, particularly in the context of agricultural leases, raiyati interests, and distribution of Bhoodan land. The Court has repeatedly emphasized that while the law prescribes specific formalities, such as registration of leases, courts must also recognize rights that arise from actual possession and acceptance of rent, thereby reconciling procedural formality with substantive justice.

Judicial Scrutiny of Arbitrary Bhoodan Land Distribution and Conflict of Interest

1. Jharkhand Bhoodan Karmchari Sangh v. State of Jharkhand, 2019 SCC OnLine Jhar 1329, H.C. Mishra, Ananda Sen, Anil Kumar Choudhary, J.J.

This case concerned the distribution of Bhoodan land under the Bihar Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1954. The Court found that the State Government-appointed committee in 2002 had allotted land in violation of statutory provisions, including to relatives and associates of committee members. The appointment of the Principal District Judge as Ombudsman while also being a committee member was held to constitute a conflict of interest, undermining the fairness of the distribution process.

The Court emphasized that land distribution under welfare legislation must prioritize landless persons and must strictly adhere to statutory mandates. Arbitrary allocation for personal benefit was held to be illegal, and the impugned allotments were annulled.





This decision highlights the judicial insistence on transparency, impartiality, and adherence to legislative intent in property distribution under social reform schemes.

Burden of Proof on the State in Claims of Government Ownership

2. State of Jharkhand & Ors. v. Chancla Devi, 2017 (D.N. Patel, Ratnaker Bhengra, J.J.)

The dispute in this case involved competing claims over land allegedly belonging to the State. The respondents had long been in possession under registered sale deeds. The State asserted ownership based merely on revenue entries and administrative records. The High Court held that the burden of proof lies on the State to establish its title, especially where private parties possess lawful documents and continued possession.

The Court ruled that mere revenue reports do not create or prove title and that the appropriate remedy for the State, if it disputes private ownership, is to file a civil suit rather than resorting to unilateral administrative action. The judgment reinforced the principle of evidentiary rigor, protecting long-held private possession from arbitrary State interference.

Validation of Chapperbandi Land Through Longstanding Possession and Documentary Evidence

3. Anupama Roy v. State of Bihar, 2003 (3) JCR 548, (M.Y. Eqbal, J.)

The issue in this case concerned the legal recognition of chapperbandi land—homestead land used for residential purposes. The petitioner demonstrated continuous payment of rent and holding tax over the property, supported by rent receipts and sale deed entries acknowledging its character as chapperbandi land. The appellate authority had rejected her claim on the ground that further proof was necessary to establish the land's classification.

The High Court held that longstanding, peaceful possession supported by revenue receipts and sale deed recitals constitutes sufficient proof of chapperbandi character. It ruled that such documentary evidence reflecting consistent State recognition cannot be negated without compelling contrary evidence. The Court emphasized that customary and settled land usage practices carry significant evidentiary weight in determining land character.

The authority's decision was accordingly set aside, and the petitioner's rights over the land were upheld.





Recognition of Raiyati Rights Through Registered Lease and Possession

4. Md. Safique & Ors. v. The State of Jharkhand & Ors, 2010 (4) JCR 231 (D.G.R. Patnaik, J.)

In this case, the Jharkhand High Court examined the nature of agricultural tenancy rights and the evidentiary requirements for establishing raiyati interest in the absence of formal documentation. The dispute concerned the validity and effect of an agricultural lease, where the petitioners claimed tenancy rights based on a registered lease deed, while the respondents contended that actual physical delivery of possession was necessary to confer legal title under the tenancy laws.

The Court clarified that when an agricultural lease is duly executed and registered, such registration itself operates to confer lawful tenancy rights upon the lessee. Physical delivery of possession is not an indispensable requirement where the lease deed is valid and regular. However, recognizing the ground realities of rural tenurial arrangements, the Court further held that even where the lease is unregistered or suffers from technical defects, the tenant may still establish raiyati interest through continuous, open, and peaceful possession coupled with the landlord's acceptance of rent, which constitutes strong evidence of the tenancy relationship.

The Court also affirmed that a claimant is entitled to advance alternative and cumulative grounds, i.e., reliance can be placed both on a written lease and, in the alternative, on actual possession supported by acts of ownership. Such an approach, the Court observed, is necessary to ensure that substantive rights arising from possession and conduct are not defeated merely due to procedural or technical lapses in documentation.

Since the authorities had failed to consider these settled principles and had rejected the petitioners' claim on the erroneous assumption that physical delivery of possession was mandatory, the High Court intervened to correct the legal misdirection. The petition was accordingly allowed, and the matter was remanded for reconsideration in light of the principles laid down.

Specific Performance and the Limits of Bona Fide Purchase Protection

5. Sobhagmal Jain v. Uday Lal Sahu & Ors., S.A. No. 78 of 1999(R), decided on 25 August 2025 (Anubha Rawat Choudhary, J.)

In this case, the Jharkhand High Court examined the applicability of Section 16(c) and Section 19(b) of the Specific Relief Act, 1963 in a suit for specific performance arising from a prior agreement to sell and a subsequent transfer of the same property





to third parties. The plaintiffs, legal heirs of late Sobhagmal Jain, based their claim on an agreement dated 05.08.1979, under which they had paid part consideration and were allotted two years for completion of the transaction. Before the period expired, the original owner, Bibi Saliman, executed registered sale deeds in favour of defendants nos. 2 and 3 on 25.01.1980. The plaintiffs alleged that the subsequent purchasers were aware of the earlier agreement and that the later sale was fraudulent. While the trial court decreed specific performance, the first appellate court reversed the decree, leading to the present second appeal.

Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Anubha Rawat Choudhary held that the plaintiffs had consistently demonstrated readiness and willingness to perform their obligations under Section 16(c), as evidenced by timely legal notice and deposit of the balance consideration before the court. On the question of protection to subsequent purchasers under Section 19(b), the Court found that the defendants failed to prove that they were bona fide purchasers without notice. The Court observed that part payments by defendants after learning of the pending dispute could not be considered in good faith, thus disentitling them to the protection of Section 19(b). The defendants' conduct, including suppression of their purchase and failure to make reasonable inquiries, amounted to constructive notice of the earlier agreement.

Since the first appellate court had misdirected itself by overlooking material evidence and misapplying legal principles governing readiness, willingness, and bona fide purchase, its judgment was set aside. The High Court restored the decree of the trial court, directing specific performance of the agreement in favour of the plaintiffs. The second appeal was dismissed, with both parties directed to bear their own costs.

***"It is the spirit and not the form of law
that keeps justice alive."***

– Earl Warren





EVOLVING PRINCIPLES OF SERVICE JURISPRUDENCE — JHARKHAND HIGH COURT ON PENSION, PROMOTION, AND COMPASSIONATE APPOINTMENT

The service jurisprudence of the Jharkhand High Court reflects a progressive approach toward fairness, equality, and constitutional protection in public employment. The Court has clarified that disciplinary control lies with the State where an employee serves, struck down irregular promotions to uphold merit-based advancement, and expanded the meaning of “dependent” in compassionate appointments to ensure social justice. It has affirmed that pension and retiral dues are vested rights protected from arbitrary withholding, though conditional benefits like leave-encashment may cease upon dismissal. Emphasizing finality in litigation, the Court has discouraged repetitive service disputes and reaffirmed that equitable considerations cannot override statutory rules. It has also ensured consistency in recruitment by holding that eligibility and reservation claims must be determined as on the prescribed cut-off date, and reinforced the principle of “equal pay for equal work,” rejecting wage discrimination based on the mode of engagement. Collectively, these rulings mark the evolution of a balanced and rights-oriented service jurisprudence in Jharkhand.

Affirmation of the State’s power to deny the benefit of unutilised Earned Leaves upon termination for misconduct.

1. Ashok Kumar Mishra v. State of Jharkhand, 2025 SCC OnLine Jhar 967 (M.S. Ramachandra Rao, C.J., Ananda Sen, Rajesh Shankar, Deepak Roshan, Gautam Kumar Choudhary, JJ.)

In the said judgment, the 5 Judge Constitution Bench of the Jharkhand High Court examined whether a government employee dismissed from service is entitled to encashment of unutilised earned leave. The petitioner, a dismissed judicial officer, contended that denial of leave encashment was contrary to the earlier Full Bench ruling in *Dudh Nath Pandey v. State of Jharkhand* (2007), which had held that leave encashment cannot be withheld under Rule 43(b) of the Bihar Pension Rules. The reference before the larger Bench arose because the Division Bench had doubts regarding the correctness of *Dudh Nath Pandey*, particularly whether encashment formed part of salary and whether it survived dismissal from service. After a detailed analysis of Finance Department memoranda dating back to 1978—which first introduced leave encashment as a limited benefit available only on superannuation, death, or certain retirement situations—the Court held that the right to encashment





is not a general statutory right but a conditional benefit conferred only by executive instructions, subject to specific eligibility criteria.

The Full Bench clarified that while leave encashment constitutes a form of salary, it ceases upon dismissal because dismissal results in forfeiture of past service under Rule 101(a) of the Bihar Pension Rules, and pay and allowances cease under Rule 95 of the Jharkhand Service Code. The Court held that since the origin of the benefit was executive, not statutory, a dismissed employee cannot claim encashment as a matter of right. Overruling *Dudh Nath Pandey* to the extent it extended this benefit even after dismissal, the Bench observed that such a view ignored the conditional nature of the right and misapplied Article 300-A of the Constitution, which protects property only when it exists under law.

The Court further held that the Supreme Court's ruling in *State of Jharkhand v. Jitendra Kumar Srivastava* reported in (2013) 12 SCC 210, cited by the petitioner, did not constitute binding precedent on this issue, as it dealt only with withholding benefits during pending proceedings and not post-dismissal entitlements. Consequently, the Court held that a dismissed employee is not entitled to leave encashment, affirming the State's power to deny the benefit upon termination for misconduct.

Validity of Caste Certificates and Cut-off Dates in Recruitment

2. Dr. Nutan Indwar @ Nutan Indwar v. State of Jharkhand & Others, 2025 SCC OnLine Jhar 3189 (Tarlok Singh Chauhan C.J., Ananda Sen, Rajesh Shankar, J.J.)

A Full Bench was constituted to resolve conflicting views on whether candidates in recruitment processes conducted by JPSC/JSSC could claim reserved category benefits based on caste certificates issued or submitted after the application cut-off date, or not in the prescribed format. The appellants relied on *Ram Kumar Gijroya v. DSSSB*, arguing that caste certificates could validly be furnished later. The Court, however, after analyzing subsequent Supreme Court judgments including *Ashok Kumar Sharma*, *Divya*, and *Sakshi Arha*, held that eligibility must be determined strictly with reference to the cut-off date stated in the advertisement.

The Court reasoned that permitting late submission would disturb administrative certainty, compromise fairness in competition, and violate Articles 14 and 16 by disadvantaging candidates who complied with the rules from the outset. Upholding Clause 9(gha) of Advertisement No. 2 of 2016 and drawing support from *Mohit Kumar v. State of U.P.*, the Court held that requiring caste certificates in a prescribed format issued by designated authorities is neither arbitrary nor unconstitutional. Consequently, candidates who failed to produce valid caste certificates by the cut-





off date were to be treated in the unreserved category, affirming the primacy of procedural discipline in recruitment.

Disciplinary action against employees after re-organisation of State of Bihar

3. State of Bihar v. Arvind Vijay Bilung & Another, 2002 SCC OnLine Jhar 1118 (V.K. Gupta CJ., Vishnudeo Narayan, J.)

The present case germinated out of the State of Bihar's challenge to a judgment of the Jharkhand High Court which had quashed suspension orders issued by Bihar against two government employees. After the bifurcation of Bihar under the Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000, both employees were serving in territories that became part of Jharkhand. Despite this, the Bihar Government, in May 2001, placed them under suspension in contemplation of disciplinary proceedings. The core legal issue before the Hon'ble Division Bench was whether, after 15 November 2000—the "appointed day" under the Act—the State of Bihar retained any authority or jurisdiction to take disciplinary action against employees who, on that date, were serving in areas that had become part of Jharkhand.

The Court examined Sections 72 and 74 of the Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000, and held that Section 74 had an overriding effect in determining jurisdiction over such employees. It clarified that every person serving in a post located in a successor State on the appointed day would be deemed to have been duly appointed by that State, which alone would thereafter exercise disciplinary control. The determining factor, therefore, was the employee's actual place of posting as on 15 November 2000, not where the cause of action had arisen. Bihar, having no jurisdiction, could not suspend or initiate proceedings against employees serving in Jharkhand. At most, it could forward any adverse material to Jharkhand for necessary action. Upholding the Single Judge's view, the Division Bench dismissed the appeal, affirming that only the successor State has authority over employees serving within its territorial jurisdiction post-reorganisation.

Promotion and Selection Process in Judicial Services

4. Chandrika Ram & Ors. v. Personnel and Administrative Reforms Dept. W.P.(S) No. 7098 of 2013 (R. Banumathi CJ., R.R. Prasad J.)

The present case arose from a challenge to the selection and promotion process of Civil Judges (Senior Division) to the post of District and Additional Sessions Judge under the 65% quota. The core legal issue before the Hon'ble Jharkhand High Court





was whether the promotions, based on merit-cum-seniority, complied with the Jharkhand Superior Judicial Service (Recruitment, Appointment and Conditions of Service) Rules and established judicial principles.

The Court held that the promotion of respondent Nos. 4 to 26 was vitiated on the following grounds: (i) prescribing minimum qualifying marks for the aggregate violated Rule 5(iv) of the Rules, and (ii) allocation of 50% marks for the interview was inconsistent with the Supreme Court's jurisprudence on judicial promotions, including rulings in *D. Sundara Raju*, *Ramesh Kumar*, *Ashok Kumar Yadav*, *Ajay Hasia*, and *Malik Mazhar Sultan*.

However, the Court clarified that the order would not affect the promotion of 28 officers who were already promoted and functioning as District and Additional Sessions Judges since October 2012, as their promotions were not under challenge.

Pension and Retiral Benefits — Protection of Statutory Rights

5. Ranchi University v. Shanti Devi & Ors., 2025 SCC OnLine Jhar 3098 (Tarlok Singh Chauhan CJ., Rajesh Shankar J.)

In the instant case, a dispute regarding the entitlement of a retired employee to statutory post-retirement benefits, including pension, gratuity, and leave encashment, in the context of pending criminal proceedings. The core legal issue before the Hon'ble Division Bench of the Jharkhand High Court was whether the mere pendency of criminal cases, without a conviction, could justify withholding these statutory entitlements.

Hon'ble The Chief Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Shankar held that statutory post-retirement benefits are not discretionary privileges but vested rights accrued through long years of service. The Court emphasized that administrative authorities cannot deny such benefits based solely on allegations, and any deprivation must be preceded by due process and proof of misconduct.

The Court further noted that this position aligns with the constitutional guarantee under Article 300A, recognizing pension and gratuity as property rights that cannot be interfered with arbitrarily. Upholding these principles, the Division Bench reaffirmed that entitlement to retiral benefits cannot be suspended merely due to pending criminal proceedings and directed the authorities to release all due benefits to the employee in accordance with law.





Expanding the Definition of “Dependent” under the NCWA

6. *Smt. Gendia Debi v. Central Coalfields Ltd., L.P.A. No. 475 of 2017 (H.C. Mishra ACJ., Deepak Roshan J.)*

The present case involved a claim for compassionate appointment under the National Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA) following the death of a government employee who had himself been appointed on compassionate grounds. The appellant sought appointment for her unmarried daughter after the death of her son, raising the issue of whether the term “dependent” under the NCWA could include family members other than the deceased employee’s immediate heir.

The Hon’ble Division Bench held that all family members dependent on the deceased employee’s income for survival constitute a single class, irrespective of gender or marital status. The Court emphasized that exclusion of a dependent solely on the basis of gender contravenes principles of fairness and the intended purpose of compassionate employment schemes.

The Court directed the respondents to reconsider the appellant’s claim in light of this principle, reinforcing that dependency, rather than gender or marital status, is the decisive factor in determining eligibility for compassionate appointments. This judgment harmonizes compassionate employment policy with contemporary notions of equality and social justice, ensuring that the benefits of such schemes are fairly extended to all eligible dependents.

Finality of Judicial Orders — Limits on Post-Disposal Relief

7. *Birmani Pandey and Another v. State of Jharkhand and Others, C.M.P. No. 958 of 2024 (Ambuj Nath, J.)*

In this case, retired university teachers sought to reopen a disposed writ petition by invoking Section 151 CPC, praying for inclusion of 12% interest on arrears of pension under the 7th Pay Commission. The original writ had directed the State to take a policy decision regarding arrears, but without granting interest. The petitioners relied on analogous rulings of coordinate benches that had awarded interest.

The State objected, arguing that the writ stood disposed of and the Court had become functus officio, and any further relief would amount to modification of a final judgment. Relying on *Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. v. Adani Power Rajasthan Ltd.* (2024 SCC OnLine SC 313, para 25), the Court held that post-disposal modifications are permissible only to correct clerical mistakes or where executory directions





become impossible due to supervening events. Seeking interest was a substantive alteration, not a correction.

The Court therefore dismissed the petition, emphasizing that all substantive reliefs must be sought at the initial hearing, as the Court cannot be re-approached to supplement or expand relief after disposal. The ruling reinforces judicial finality and prevents the misuse of inherent powers to revisit settled service matters.

FAMILY LAW JURISPRUDENCE

The Jharkhand High Court's family law jurisprudence reflects a balanced approach aimed at fairness, welfare, and clarity in statutory interpretation. The Court has affirmed that caste-based reservation benefits are tied to birth, not adoption, and has clarified that where maintenance is granted under both criminal and matrimonial statutes, only the higher amount is payable. It has reiterated that maintenance under Section 125 Cr.P.C. is meant to prevent destitution and is not available to a spouse who has willfully deserted the marriage and can support themselves. At the same time, the Court has protected vulnerable dependents by recognizing the right of a widowed daughter-in-law to seek maintenance from her father-in-law when she is unable to sustain herself. It has also clarified the interlocutory nature of interim maintenance orders and emphasized that child custody must be determined solely on the basis of the child's best interests, even where foreign court orders exist. Taken together, these rulings underscore a cohesive and welfare-oriented approach to family law.

Maintenance Rights of Widowed Daughters-in-Law and Minor Children:

1. Surendra Das & Anr. v. Anita Das & Ors., 2025 SCC OnLine Jhar 2851(Sujit Narayan Prasad, Rajesh Kumar, J.J.)

The petitioner, Anita Das, was the legally married wife of the late Jyotish Kumar Das, and they had two children. After their marriage in 2007, the petitioner faced severe harassment and abuse from her in-laws, including demands for money, physical torture, and emotional mistreatment. Following her husband's death in 2022, the respondents became more violent, ousted her from their home, and unlawfully seized her husband's documents and property. Despite attempts by the petitioner's family to mediate, the respondents continued their abusive behavior, prompting the petitioner to file a complaint under various sections of the IPC. The petitioner sought maintenance for herself and her children, as well as the return of her husband's personal documents and her rightful share of the joint property.





The central issue in this case concerns the right of a widowed daughter-in-law and her minor children to claim maintenance from her father-in-law under the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956. According to Section 19 of the Act, a widowed daughter-in-law is entitled to maintenance from her father-in-law only when she is unable to support herself through her own earnings or other property, and when she cannot obtain maintenance from other sources, including the estate of her husband or her parents. To claim maintenance, the daughter-in-law must prove that all other sources of income have been exhausted.

The Act further clarifies that a widowed daughter-in-law can be denied maintenance only if she can receive support from her husband's estate or her parents. Section 22 also establishes that heirs of a deceased Hindu are bound to maintain the deceased's dependents from the estate. In this case, the Ld. Family Judge found that the widow had sufficiently demonstrated her inability to support herself and her children and could not obtain maintenance from her parents. The Ld. Family Judge also noted that the husband's share in agricultural land had not been partitioned, and the respondents were not maintaining the petitioners. Based on Sections 19 and 22 of the Act, the judge concluded that the petitioners were entitled to maintenance.

The Hon'ble High Court, after reviewing the factual and legal aspects, upheld the Ld. Family Judge's decision, concluding that the judgment was sound and in line with the legal provisions. The Hon'ble High Court also noted that interference with the Ld. Family Court's decision was unwarranted as it was not "clearly wrong" as per established legal principles.

Foreign Custody Order vs. Welfare of the Minor Child

2. Shahnawaz Alam vs. State of Jharkhand & Others; W.P (Cr.) (DB) No. 691 of 2024, Decided on: 29.07.2025 (Rongon Mukhopadhyay, Ambuj Nath, J.J.);

The writ petition was filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India seeking issuance of a writ of habeas corpus for restoration of the custody of the minor daughter to the petitioner (father), placing reliance upon an order dated 26.12.2024 passed by the Dubai Primary Court, which directed the respondent no.2 (mother) to return to Dubai with the child. The parties had married in 2016 and were residing in Dubai, where the child was born on 06.01.2019. In July 2023, the family came to India on vacation, and thereafter, the mother chose not to return to Dubai and stayed in Jamshedpur, admitting the child to Hill Top School, while she continued her employment at N.I.T., Jamshedpur.





During the hearing, the question that arose was whether the foreign custody order could be enforced through a writ of habeas corpus when the minor female child is already in the custody of her mother, who is recognized under Muslim Personal Law as the natural custodian (hizanat) of a minor girl until puberty. It was further submitted that India is not a signatory to the Hague Convention (1980), and therefore, foreign custody decrees are not automatically enforceable. The Court noted that, under Section 13(c) and 13(f) of the Code of Civil Procedure, a foreign judgment is not conclusive if it is contrary to Indian law or opposed to the principles of natural justice. The Dubai Court's directive requiring the child to be returned to Dubai was found to be inconsistent with the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937, which entitles the mother to custody, and also contrary to Section 17 of the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890, which mandates that the welfare of the minor is of paramount consideration.

The Court observed that the minor child, being about six and a half years old, was well-settled in her environment in Jamshedpur and receiving education and maternal care. The Court clarified that although a petition for habeas corpus is maintainable even when the child is in the custody of one parent, the purpose of such a writ is not to enforce a foreign judgment but to ensure the welfare and well-being of the minor. The father's claim of better financial status and educational opportunities abroad could not outweigh the emotional stability, security, and continuity of care presently afforded to the child. The Court held that removing the child from the custody of the mother at this stage would have a "calamitous effect on her mental health."

Accordingly, the writ petition was dismissed, and the child remained in the lawful custody of the mother.

Caste Acquired by Adoption and Eligibility for Reservation Benefits

3. Madhusudan v. State of Jharkhand & Others, 2018 (02) AIR (Jhr)(R) 113 (Rajesh Shankar, J.)

The writ petition was filed challenging the order dated 07.06.2017 issued by the Caste Scrutiny Committee, Ranchi, whereby the petitioner's claim to Scheduled Caste status was rejected. The petitioner was born on 21.02.1964 in a Baniya (OBC) family and asserted that he was adopted at about 14 years of age by one Rameshwar Paswan, belonging to the Scheduled Caste community. Based on this asserted adoption, affidavits were executed, his school records were modified to reflect the adoptive father's name, and he obtained Scheduled Caste certificates. On this basis, he appeared as an SC candidate in the 37th B.P.S.C. Examination,





was selected, and appointed as Deputy Superintendent of Police. However, doubts were raised regarding his caste status, leading to scrutiny before the Caste Scrutiny Committee, which ultimately rejected his claim on the ground that the adoption was not established in the legal and social sense and that there was no evidence of his assimilation into the Scheduled Caste community.

When the matter was taken up, the Court noted that the issue was not limited to whether the adoption was formally valid, but whether reservation benefits can be acquired solely through adoption. The Court referred to the principle laid down in *Valsamma Paul v. Cochin University*, that caste for purposes of reservation is linked to birth-based social disadvantage, and cannot be altered by a voluntary change such as marriage or adoption. The Court observed that reservation under Articles 15(4) and 16(4) is intended to remedy historical discrimination, social stigma, and systemic exclusion, which cannot be retrospectively acquired by someone born outside the community. The petitioner's upbringing, social environment, and early advantages as a member of a forward/OBC caste could not be erased simply by adoption. Therefore, even assuming the adoption to be valid, the petitioner could not claim Scheduled Caste reservation benefits.

Reconciling Maintenance under Section 125 Cr.P.C. and Section 24 HMA:

4. Sangeeta Kumari v. State of Jharkhand & Anr., AIR 2018 Jharkhand 57 (Rajesh Shankar J.)

The Division bench of the Hon'ble Court considered the interplay between maintenance under Section 125 Cr.P.C. and interim alimony under Section 24 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. The Court observed that both provisions are designed to secure maintenance in differing contexts—with Section 125 aimed at spouses, children, and indigent parents, and Section 24 intended for interim relief during matrimonial proceedings. Relying on established jurisprudence delineating their distinct objects, the Bench held that when orders exist under both statutes simultaneously, the claimant is entitled only to the higher amount offered under either provision, not to cumulative grants under both.

The Court found that in the instant matter the petitioner had been awarded ₹4,000 per month under Section 125 from September 2015 to July 2016 and ₹5,000 per month under Section 125 from December 2016 to February 2017, pursuant to a Court order of Cr. Revision No. 892 of 2015 and an interim order in S.L.P.(Cr.) No. 7907 of 2016. Since maintenance was already being received under Section 125 during the relevant period the petitioner could not claim the additional interim alimony of





₹2,000 under Section 24. Consequently, the requested relief under Section 24 was declined.

Distinction between an interlocutory order and an appealable order

5. Mukund Murari Mahto vs. Karishma Singh @ Kumari Mubi; C.M.P. No. 457 of 2024 (Sanjay Kumar Dwivedi J.)

The petition was filed under Article 227 of the Constitution of India seeking to quash the order dated 08.01.2024 passed in Original Suit No. 708 of 2022 by the learned Principal Judge, Family Court, Bokaro. In that order, the learned Principal Judge had directed the petitioner to pay a sum of Rs. 2,000/- per month as pendente lite maintenance. When the matter was taken up, the learned counsel representing the sole opposite party raised a question regarding the maintainability of the petition under Article 227 of the Constitution of India. He argued that since the order was passed as interim maintenance by the Family Court, Bokaro, under Section 24 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, an appeal was the appropriate remedy under Section 19 of the Family Courts Act. He further pointed out that the petition had been filed under Section 20(3) of the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956, while the impugned order referred to Section 24 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

The Court observed that incidental directions to pay maintenance pendente lite and expenses do not constitute a comprehensive adjudication of any issue in the proceedings. The nature of the order must be examined to determine if it marks the final resolution of the case. For an order to be considered a judgment or final decision, it must address vital rights and obligations, even if it does not conclusively resolve all matters in controversy. If the order settles a significant issue that affects the main case or collateral issues permanently, it is appealable. However, if it is temporary, interim, and has no bearing on the parties' rights or the main issue, it is an interlocutory order. In this case, the Family Court's order was interim, as the claim for maintenance remained active and the order only provided temporary relief of Rs.2,000/- pendente lite. The order was passed under Section 24 of the Hindu Marriage Act, though the petition was filed under Section 20(3) of the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act. Since the order was interlocutory, the petition under Article 227 of the Constitution of India is maintainable.

The Court also reaffirmed that once a party chooses a remedy under a specific statute, they must pursue it under that statute, as confirmed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Nivedita Sharma v. Cellular Operators Association of India. Therefore, the impugned order dated 08.01.2024 is set aside.



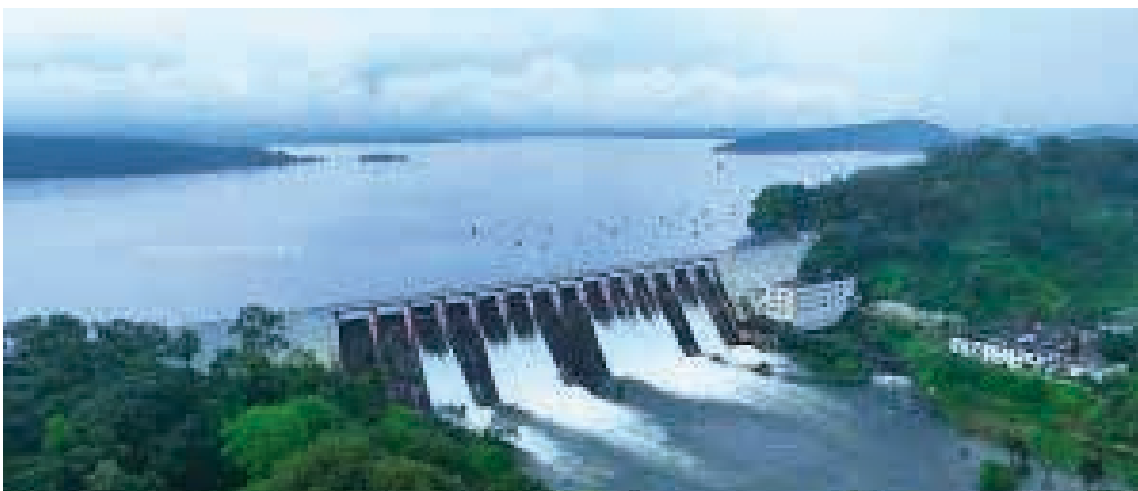


Willful Desertion and Independent Income as Grounds to Deny Maintenance Under Section 125 CrPC

6. Zakrias Tigga v. State of Jharkhand & Another, Cr. Revision No. 516 of 2011, Decided on 10.11.2023 (Ambuj Nath, J.)

In this case, the Jharkhand High Court examined the conditions under which maintenance may be denied under Section 125 of the Cr.P.C., particularly where long-term desertion and independent income negate financial dependency. The petitioner-husband challenged the Family Court's direction to pay monthly maintenance to the opposite party, asserting that she had voluntarily deserted him decades earlier and was financially self-sufficient. The Court noted that maintenance under Section 125 is a measure of social justice, but its benefit is not available where a spouse has willfully abandoned the matrimonial relationship or possesses independent earning capacity sufficient for self-support.

The Court found that the opposite party had eloped in 1990 and had been living separately ever since, a fact supported by the testimony of witnesses who confirmed that she was not residing with the petitioner for over thirty years. During this period, the petitioner had entered into a subsequent marital relationship and was living with his second wife and their three children. The Court further observed that the opposite party was employed and earning, while her children were adults and self-supporting, establishing that she was not financially dependent. Holding that willful desertion disentitles a claimant from receiving maintenance under Section 125(4) Cr.P.C., the Court set aside the Family Court's maintenance order and dismissed the maintenance claim, reiterating that statutory relief cannot be used to revive long-abandoned spousal ties in cases of clear, prolonged desertion accompanied by independent income.





TAXATION JURISPRUDENCE IN JHARKHAND — POWERS OF AUTHORITIES AND CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITS

The Jharkhand High Court has, over the years, clarified the scope of powers exercisable by tax authorities and the limits imposed by constitutional principles. Its rulings emphasize that while taxation is a legitimate instrument of governance, any levy or administrative action must be just, proportionate, and within statutory authority. The following decisions illustrate the Court's approach to procedural fairness, statutory interpretation, and constitutional compliance in taxation matters.

Constitutional Validity of Compensatory Tax under Jharkhand Entry Tax Act, 2011

1. Imperial Fastners Private Limited v. State of Jharkhand & Ors., W.P. (T) No. 5696 of 2011 (Prakash Tatia, C.J., P.P. Bhatt, J.)

In *Imperial Fastners*, the Court addressed the challenge to the Jharkhand Entry Tax Act, 2011, specifically the levy of compensatory tax under Section 3. The petitioners argued that the tax was imposed without providing specific, measurable benefits in proportion to the payment. The High Court held that the State had failed to demonstrate any equivalence or reimbursement to taxpayers. The creation of the Jharkhand State Trade Development Fund and its utilization for general purposes under Section 4(3) did not establish direct benefits to taxpayers, making the tax arbitrary and disproportionate. Accordingly, Section 3 of the Act was declared ultra vires and unconstitutional, as it violated Article 301 of the Constitution and was not saved by Article 304. The decision prevented the State from enforcing the provisions of the Act, reaffirming the principle that taxation must comply with both statutory and constitutional standards.

Through these rulings, the Jharkhand High Court underscores two critical principles in taxation jurisprudence:

Statutory Authority and Procedural Fairness — Tax authorities and appellate bodies must act strictly within the powers conferred by law, as seen in *Central Coalfields*. Overreach not only violates statutory provisions but also undermines taxpayer rights.

Constitutional Proportionality in Taxation — Levying taxes must respect the principles of equivalence, fairness, and benefit correlation. Arbitrary or general-purpose taxation without demonstrable benefit to the taxpayer, as held in *Imperial Fastners*, is constitutionally unsustainable.





Limits of Power of Appellate Authorities under Income Tax Law

2. Central Coalfields Limited v. Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals), Ranchi, W.P.(T) No. 1293 of 2013 (R. Banumathi, C.J, Aparesh Kumar Singh, J.)

In this case, the High Court examined whether the Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals) ("CIT (Appeals)") could issue show cause notices reopening assessments across multiple years. Section 251(1)(a) of the Income Tax Act empowers the CIT (Appeals) to confirm, reduce, enhance, or annul an assessment in appeal, but only within the context of pending or disposed appeals.

The Court found that the impugned notices, which sought to reopen multiple assessments outside the ambit of pending appeals, exceeded the statutory authority of the CIT (Appeals). The Court noted that expressing doubts about the petitioner's status as a company did not justify reopening past assessments indiscriminately. Consequently, the High Court quashed the show cause notices, reinforcing that appellate authorities must exercise their powers strictly within statutory limits while balancing the interests of the taxpayer and the Revenue.

Distinction Between Intra-State and Inter-State Sales in Coal E-Auctions: CST vs. VAT Liability Clarified

3. M/s Amit Enterprises v. Central Coalfields Ltd. 2015 SCC OnLine Jhar 325 (D.N. Patel, Pramath Patnaik, J.J.)

The Jharkhand High Court in *M/s Amit Enterprises v. Central Coalfields Ltd.* dealt with the key legal question of whether the sale of coal through e-auction within the State of Jharkhand was liable to Central Sales Tax (CST) or Value Added Tax (VAT). The petitioner contended that both the seller (CCL) and purchaser were within Jharkhand, and hence the transaction was an intra-State sale governed by the Jharkhand VAT Act, 2005. The respondents, however, levied CST under Section 3(a) of the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, claiming the sale occasioned inter-State movement. The Court held that Section 3(a) applies only when the movement of goods from one State to another occurs in the same transaction of sale, which was not the case here. The subsequent sale by the petitioner to a buyer in Uttarakhand was a separate, independent transaction, having no privity with CCL.

Emphasizing the legal principle that mere movement of goods outside the State after completion of a local sale does not convert an intra-State sale into an inter-State sale, the Court relied on precedents such as *Surya Vinayaka Industries Ltd.* and *Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd.*, reported in [2013] 58 VST 474 (Mad) to hold





that the first sale between CCL and the petitioner was confined within Jharkhand. It clarified that CST could not be levied since the movement of coal occurred under a subsequent sale. Accordingly, the Court directed CCL to correct the tax invoice by replacing CST with VAT and to issue the requisite JVAT-404 form, reaffirming that the applicable tax law depends on the situs and nature of the sale rather than the eventual destination of goods.

Together, these decisions illustrate that while revenue collection is essential for the State, the exercise of taxing power must remain transparent, just, and legally grounded, reflecting the balance between state interests and taxpayer protections.

Limitation on Reassessment under the Jharkhand Value Added Tax Act

4. Jharkhand Ispat Pvt. Ltd. v. State of Jharkhand; W.P.(T) No. 3755 of 2013, Decided on: 19.12.2019 (H.C. Mishra, Deepak Roshan, J.J.)

The writ petition was filed challenging the reassessment notice dated 24.05.2013 issued under Section 40 of the Jharkhand Value Added Tax Act, 2005 for the Assessment Year 2006–07. The petitioner, a registered dealer engaged in manufacturing sponge iron and M.S. billets, had already filed returns and was assessed under Section 35(5)(b) on 05.02.2009. After an inspection conducted on 23.05.2013 based on an allegation of concealed purchase of iron ore, the reassessment notice was issued, which the petitioner contended was barred by limitation prescribed under Section 40(2) of the Act.

When the matter was taken up, the issue before the Court was whether reassessment proceedings could be initiated beyond the statutory period of five years from the end of the relevant assessment year. The Court observed that Section 40(2) clearly limits the initiation of reassessment to within five years, and this period is absolute and non-extendable, even in cases involving alleged fraud or suppression. The Court further noted that under Rule 38 of the JVAT Rules, dealers are required to preserve records only for five years; therefore, permitting reassessment beyond this period would impose an unreasonable and unauthorized burden upon the dealer. The Court emphasized that tax statutes must be strictly construed, and question of limitation goes to the jurisdiction of the assessing authority, making the writ petition maintainable despite the availability of alternative remedies.

Accordingly, the reassessment notice dated 24.05.2013 was held to be time-barred as the limitation for reassessment for Assessment Year 2006–07 expired on 31.03.2012. The notice was declared void ab initio, and the writ petition was allowed.





Judicial Endorsement of DGGI's Authority under the GST Framework

5. M/s AKA Logistics Pvt. Ltd. & Ors. v. Union of India & Ors., W.P.(T) No. 5071 of 2023 & analogous cases Decided on 3 October 2024 (Sujit Narayan Prasad, Arun Kumar Rai, J.J.)

The petitioners challenged show-cause notices issued by DGGI officers under Section 74(1) of the CGST Act, arguing that only “proper officers” designated under the Act could initiate proceedings. The Court held that DGGI officers are duly empowered to issue such notices. Referring to Sections 2(91), 3, 4, and 5 of the CGST Act and Notification No. 14/2017-Central Tax, it observed that DGGI officers function as Central Tax Officers with powers corresponding to their ranks. The Bench drew support from rulings in *Yasho Industries Ltd.* and *R.C. Infra Digital Solutions*, while distinguishing *Sayed Ali (2011)*, emphasizing that under the CGST Act, both the Government and the Board can delegate such powers.

The Court further reiterated that writ courts should not ordinarily intervene at the show-cause notice stage, as petitioners can contest jurisdictional and factual issues before the adjudicating authority. This judgment reinforced the uniform application of tax enforcement mechanisms and upheld the statutory validity of DGGI officers' actions, thereby ensuring consistency and administrative efficiency in India's GST regime.





MINING LAWS AND RESOURCE EQUITY

The jurisprudence of the Jharkhand High Court in the field of mining reflects a balanced approach between regulatory authority and environmental responsibility. The Court has clarified the limits of executive power in enforcement actions under mining laws, ensuring that punitive steps such as confiscation remain within judicial oversight. At the same time, it has emphasized that mining activities must not compromise ecologically sensitive regions and that environmental protection is an essential constitutional obligation. Together, these rulings advance a framework in which the extraction of mineral resources is subject to legality, transparency, and sustainable ecological stewardship.

No Mining Without Strict Environmental Scrutiny in Saranda Region

1. M/s Nishant Roadlines v. Union of India & Ors. W.P.(C) No. 4107 of 2023, (Sujit Narayan Prasad, Arun Kumar Rai, J.J.)

The recent judgment of the Jharkhand High Court dated 02.09.2025 is a significant reaffirmation of the constitutional and statutory duty to safeguard the environment, particularly in ecologically sensitive forest zones. The Court's decision centered around the Saranda Forest — a dense and biologically rich expanse in West Singhbhum district, often referred to as the “oxygen bowl of Jharkhand” — home to rare species of flora and fauna and critical to the region's hydrological and climatic stability. The petitioner's plea sought to invalidate the 2018 Management Plan for Sustainable Mining in Saranda and Chaibasa (MPSM) and to obtain environmental clearance for stone mining, contending that the plan applied only to iron ore mining and lacked legal force. Rejecting this contention, the Division Bench held that environmental regulation cannot be confined to specific minerals and that any activity threatening the ecological integrity of Saranda must be rigorously controlled. The Court found the SEIAA's rejection of clearance lawful, as it was grounded in the precautionary principle and aligned with the broader objective of protecting a highly sensitive forest ecosystem.

Emphasizing the legal framework under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and the 2006 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, the Court reiterated that environmental clearance is not a procedural formality but a substantive safeguard against irreversible ecological harm. It invoked landmark Supreme Court precedents such as *T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad v. Union of India*, *Lafarge Umiam Mining (P) Ltd. v. Union of India*, and *Common Cause v. Union of India* to underline that environmental conservation flows from the constitutional guarantee of life under





Article 21 and the State's duty under Articles 48A and 51A(g). The Bench observed that Saranda's ecological significance transcends administrative boundaries and mineral types; permitting even limited mining in designated conservation zones would erode the foundational principles of sustainable development and the public trust doctrine. Upholding the State's decision, the Court concluded that commercial interests must yield to environmental imperatives, declaring that protection of forests like Saranda is essential not only for Jharkhand's ecological balance but for the inter- generational right to a healthy environment.

Confiscation Powers Under MMDR Act Clarified

2. M/s Aditya Enterprises & Ors. v. The State of Jharkhand & Ors., W.P.(C) No. 6788 of 2023 (Ananda Sen, Subhash Chand J.J.)

This recent judgment dealt comprehensively with the jurisdiction of courts and authorised authorities under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) and the corresponding Jharkhand Minor Mineral Concession Rules. The court held that Rule 11(v) of the Jharkhand Mineral (Prevention of Illegal Mining, Transportation and Storage) Rules, 2017 is ultra vires (beyond the powers of) the parent legislation, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act). Specifically, the court ruled that the provision that granted the Deputy Commissioner of the district the authority to order the confiscation of seized minerals, tools, equipment, and vehicles was illegal and unauthorized. The judgment clarified that while state-nominated officers can seize property under the Rules, the power of confiscation is a punitive measure that must be exercised exclusively by the judicial authority—namely, the Court empowered to take cognizance of the offense (the Special Court or Judicial Magistrate First Class), as mandated by the MMDR Act. Consequently, the High Court quashed all confiscation proceedings initiated and orders passed by Deputy Commissioners under the void Rule 11(v), allowing the State the liberty to pursue the confiscation before the appropriate competent court. This case harmonized the procedural framework of enforcement under the MMDR Act and clarified the jurisdictional competence of courts and authorities in the State.

Invalidation of Discriminatory “Composition User Fee” on Mineral-Carrying Vehicles: Classification and Legislative Competence under Fiscal Regulation

3. M/s Triveni Engicons Pvt. Ltd. v. State of Jharkhand & Ors., 2025 SCC OnLine Jhar 3236 (Rajesh Shankar, J.)

In this series of writ petitions, the Jharkhand High Court examined the constitutional





validity of the “Composition User Fee” imposed exclusively on vehicles transporting minor minerals under the Jharkhand Highways Fee (Determination of Rates & Collection) Amendment Rules of 2021, 2022, and 2025. The petitioners, comprising mining leaseholders, stone crushing operators, and mineral transporters, contended that the levy was not a valid toll under the Indian Tolls Act, 1851 (Jharkhand Amendment, 2002), but rather a tax in disguise, imposed without legislative competence.

The Court held that tolls may be levied based solely on road usage, and not on the nature of goods carried by a vehicle. The State’s attempt to impose an additional levy only on vehicles transporting minerals—while exempting other vehicles of the same axle load and configuration—was found to be arbitrary and discriminatory, thereby violating Article 14 of the Constitution. If road damage and maintenance were the object of the levy, the Court reasoned, then all heavy vehicles should have been treated uniformly, regardless of cargo type.

Further, the Court concluded that the levy could not be sustained as a “fee,” since no corresponding quantifiable service or benefit was demonstrated. It therefore amounted to a tax without authority of law, falling outside the permissible scope of Section 2 of the Indian Tolls (Jharkhand Amendment) Act, 2002 and lacking valid support under the appropriate constitutional taxation entry.

Accordingly, the impugned amendments imposing Composition User Fee on mineral-carrying vehicles were declared ultra vires, and the collections made pursuant thereto were held illegal, entitling the petitioners to seek refund through appropriate legal process. The judgment thus reinforces constitutional safeguards against discriminatory fiscal impositions in the regulation of mineral transportation and affirms that State power to levy fees must be exercised strictly within the bounds of legislative authority and rational classification.





BAIL AND PRISONERS' RIGHTS: LIBERTY A CONSTITUTIONAL IMPERATIVE

The jurisprudence of the Jharkhand High Court on bail and prisoners' rights reflects a careful and principled balance between the constitutional guarantee of personal liberty and the State's obligation to maintain public order. The Court has underscored that bail is not to be granted as a matter of course, even when statutory timelines or procedural defaults are cited, and that judicial discretion must be exercised with due regard to the nature of the offence, the conduct of the accused, and the interests of society. At the same time, it has affirmed that the existence of special penal statutes does not, by itself, oust the jurisdiction to grant regular or anticipatory bail under the Code of Criminal Procedure unless expressly provided by the legislature. In matters of preventive detention, the Court has consistently reiterated that such extraordinary measures cannot supplant ordinary criminal procedure, and must be supported by specific, proximate, and compelling reasons, subject to strict constitutional limitations on delegation and duration. Together, these principles reinforce the understanding that while the State may restrict liberty in the interest of justice and security, such restrictions must always operate under constitutional discipline—making liberty not merely a legal right, but a foundational democratic imperative.

Strict Scrutiny of Preventive Detention and Primacy of Personal Liberty under the Jharkhand Control of Crimes Act, 2002

1. Ganesh Singh v. State of Jharkhand, 2024 SCC OnLine Jhar 4367 (Ananda Sen, Pradeep Kumar Srivastava, J.J.)

The Division bench of the Hon'ble Jharkhand High Court examined the legality of preventive detention under the Jharkhand Control of Crimes Act, 2002. The Court observed that preventive detention is an exceptional power and must strictly adhere to constitutional safeguards under Article 21 and 22. Relying on *Ameena Begum v. State of Telangana* (2023) 9 SCC 587 and *Ram Manohar Lohia v. State of Bihar*, the Bench drew a clear distinction between "law and order" and "public order." It held that an act affecting individual tranquility or causing isolated disturbances cannot be elevated to a matter of public order unless it disrupts the even tempo of community life or causes fear and insecurity among the public at large.

The Court found that most of the criminal cases cited against the petitioner had ended in acquittal or final closure and the remaining ones did not demonstrate habitual or





anti-social conduct as defined under Section 2(d) of the Act. The Court further held that Station Diary Entries (Sanhas) cannot form the basis of preventive detention in the absence of a registered FIR or credible evidence of threat to public peace. Referring to *Shaik Nazneen v. State of Telangana* (2023) 9 SCC 633, it reiterated that if the State apprehends misuse of bail or recurrence of offences, the appropriate remedy is to seek cancellation of bail and not to invoke preventive detention laws arbitrarily.

The Bench emphasized that preventive detention cannot be justified merely on administrative grounds such as ensuring smooth conduct of elections, as such reasoning amounts to misuse of power and violation of personal liberty. Holding that liberty is the cornerstone of constitutional democracy, the Court quashed the detention orders as being devoid of legal basis and violative of fundamental rights under Article 21, reaffirming that deprivation of liberty must rest on strong and justifiable grounds, not administrative expediency.

Discretionary Nature of Bail under Section 437(6) Cr.P.C.

2. Didar Singh v. State of Jharkhand, 2006 (1) BLJR 169 (Amareshwar Sahay, J.)

In *Didar Singh*, the Court revisited the operation of Section 437(6) of the CrPC, which stipulates that an accused who has been in custody during a delayed trial may be released on bail. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amareshwar Sahay clarified that this provision does not create an absolute or automatic right to bail. Instead, it vests in the court a discretionary power that must be exercised judiciously, considering the nature of the allegations, the progress of the trial, and the reasons for delay.

The petitioner in this case faced charges under Sections 419, 420, 386, and 387 of the IPC. The trial court had already examined five prosecution witnesses, with key witnesses yet to be deposed. Observing that the accused had previously been denied bail on merits, the High Court held that invoking Section 437(6) as a technical device to secure release was impermissible. It upheld the lower courts' refusal of bail, emphasizing that discretion under Section 437(6) must serve justice rather than convenience. This decision reinforces the principle that statutory timelines, while crucial, do not override judicial assessment. The Court thus balanced procedural rights with substantive justice, ensuring that bail provisions are not misused to undermine the integrity of ongoing trials.





Liberty in the context of Preventive Detention

3. Jitendra Korwa @ Chhotan Ji @ Komal Ji v. State of Jharkhand & Ors., 2017 SCC OnLine Jhar 2618 (Rongon Mukhopadhyay J.)

The Court, while comparing the provisions of the Jharkhand Crime Control Act, 2002 with similar preventive detention laws in other states and the Supreme Court's decision in *T. Devaki v. State of Tamil Nadu* (1990), held that these statutes are *pari materia*—identical in substance and purpose. It observed that the three-month period mentioned in Section 12(2) of the Act pertains only to the delegation of powers by the State Government to the District Magistrate and not to the duration of the detention itself. Once the Advisory Board has approved the initial order of detention and the State Government has confirmed it, there is no requirement for the Government to seek fresh approval from the Advisory Board for subsequent extensions.

The Court further held that under Section 21, the State Government possesses the discretion to continue the detention of a person for any period it considers appropriate, subject to the statutory maximum of one year prescribed under Section 22. Accordingly, the writ petition was dismissed, and the validity of the extended detention order was upheld. The Court reaffirmed the principle laid down in *T. Devaki* (1990) and declared that the earlier decision in *Prince Khan v. State of Jharkhand* was rendered *per incuriam*, as it had been decided without reference to the binding precedent.

Interpreting the Non-Obstante Clause and the Scope of Anticipatory Bail

4. Birbal Munda v. State of Jharkhand, 2019 SCC OnLine Jhar 1794 (Anil Kumar Choudhary, J.)

The present case arose from a reference before the Jharkhand High Court concerning the applicability of the bail provisions under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC), in the presence of a non obstante clause in a special statute. The central legal issue before the Hon'ble Court was whether such a clause excludes or limits the operation of Sections 437 and 438 of the CrPC relating to the grant of regular and anticipatory bail.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Kumar Choudhary held that a non obstante clause in a special law does not override or nullify the general bail provisions of the CrPC but functions only to remove procedural impediments in granting bail under the special enactment. Relying on the Supreme Court's decision in *Nikesh Tarachand Shah v.*





Union of India, the Court observed that in the absence of an express legislative bar, the power to grant anticipatory bail remains intact, reflecting the legislature's intent to preserve judicial discretion in matters of personal liberty. A notable aspect of the judgment was the Court's interpretation of the term "person" as used in the CrPC and the Indian Penal Code (IPC), holding that it encompasses minors as well. The Court, therefore, affirmed that children are also entitled to seek anticipatory bail in appropriate cases. This progressive interpretation expanded the protective reach of bail jurisprudence and underscored the constitutional commitment to safeguarding individual liberty, except where its curtailment is justified by compelling necessity.

Reaffirming due process and limiting the reach of PMLA in the absence of a predicate offence

5. Bishnu Kumar Agarwala @ Bishnu Kumar Agarwal v. Union of India, Directorate of Enforcement, B.A. No. 10166 of 2023 (Deepak Roshan J.)

Justice Deepak Roshan, in a significant judgment, clarified that proceedings under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) cannot be sustained on mere suspicion or in the absence of a valid predicate offence. The case concerned the arrest of a real estate businessman accused by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) of acquiring three disputed lands in Ranchi—Cheshire Home Road, Siram Mauza, and Pugru Mauza—through allegedly forged transactions. The ED treated these as "proceeds of crime," though the primary FIR regarding one property had already been closed by the police as a civil dispute, and no criminal cases existed for the other two lands.

The Court examined whether the petitioner's arrest and prosecution under the PMLA were legally justified without a substantiated predicate offence. It found that the essential ingredients of money laundering under Sections 3 and 4 of the Act were not made out. The petitioner neither participated in creating forged documents nor possessed knowledge of any fraudulent transactions. Applying the principles laid down in *Vijay Madanlal Choudhary v. Union of India* (2022), the Court held that without an established scheduled offence, the invocation of PMLA provisions is unsustainable. Justice Roshan further underscored that prolonged detention before trial amounts to punishment without conviction. Referring to *Manish Sisodia v. CBI* (2023) and *P. Chidambaram v. Directorate of Enforcement* (2019), he emphasized that the right to liberty and a speedy trial must prevail unless concrete evidence warrants continued custody. Finding that the petitioner had cooperated with the investigation, had no prior criminal record, and was unlikely to abscond, the Court





held that both statutory conditions for bail under Section 45(1)(ii) of the PMLA were satisfied. Accordingly, the Court granted regular bail, directing the petitioner to furnish a bond of ₹1,00,000, surrender his passport, and abstain from influencing witnesses. The judgment reinforces the principle that PMLA powers must be exercised within constitutional bounds and that detention cannot substitute due process when the foundational offence itself is unproven.

PUNISHMENT FOR CRIMES AND SENTENCING POLICY

The approach of the Jharkhand High Court to criminal adjudication and sentencing reflects a steadily deepening commitment to constitutional fairness, evidentiary rigor, and the protection of personal liberty. It has drawn a clear distinction between distinct statutory offences while underscoring that the death penalty may only follow from a balanced assessment of aggravating and mitigating circumstances. The Court has insisted that trials must rest on reliable and lawfully admitted evidence, requiring careful scrutiny of confessional recoveries, electronic records, and dying declarations, and emphasizing that convictions cannot be based on suspicion or procedural shortcuts. Where investigations have been flawed, key suspects omitted, or evidence unsupported by the requirements of the Evidence Act, the Court has not hesitated to overturn even the gravest sentences. This judicial trajectory demonstrates an evolving sentencing philosophy grounded in due process, accountability in investigation, and the principle that criminal liability must be established through trustworthy proof, not presumption or conjecture.

Balancing Aggravating and Mitigating Factors in Capital Punishment

1. Surendra Singh Rautela alias Bengali and Others, 2000 SCC OnLine Jhar 21 (Vinod Kumar Gupta C.J., M.Y. Eqbal J.)

In this decision, the Jharkhand High Court (then under the jurisdiction of the Patna High Court) clarified the distinct scope and operation of Section 27(3) of the Arms Act and Section 302 of the IPC, holding that the two provisions function in separate legal domains. The Court emphasized that convictions and sentences under each section must be considered independently based on their respective statutory requirements.

The Bench reaffirmed that the death penalty should be imposed only after careful balancing of aggravating and mitigating circumstances, consistent with the constitutional principles laid down in *Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab* and *Machhi Singh v. State of Punjab*. Judicial discretion in awarding the death penalty, the Court noted, must be exercised with the utmost caution and only in the rarest of rare cases.





Furthermore, the Court stressed the necessity of exercising judicial caution while relying on confessional recoveries and injured witness testimonies, emphasizing that such evidence should be carefully evaluated and corroborated before arriving at a conclusion. The judgment thus reinforced the principles of procedural fairness and evidentiary reliability in criminal adjudication and sentencing.

Judicial Scrutiny of Dying Declarations and Collective Liability under Section 34 IPC

2. Somra Oraon v. State of Jharkhand, Cr. Appeal (DB) No. 98 of 2003, Decided on 15 September 2025 (Rongon Mukhopadhyay, Pradeep Kumar Srivastava, J.J.)

In this appeal, the Division Bench of the Jharkhand High Court examined the evidentiary credibility of an alleged oral dying declaration and the applicability of Section 34 IPC in the absence of direct proof of common intention. The appellant had been convicted under Section 302/34 IPC for the murder of one Sanjay Oraon during a late-night incident following the Karma Festival in village Khamba, District Gumla. The prosecution case rested primarily on hearsay accounts and the assertion that the deceased had named the appellant before his death. The key issue before the Court was whether such evidence was trustworthy and legally sufficient to sustain a conviction for murder.

The Bench noted that none of the prosecution witnesses had witnessed the assault, and the allegation that the deceased made an oral dying declaration was rendered doubtful by medical evidence. The doctor categorically stated that the multiple incised wounds on vital parts of the head would have caused immediate unconsciousness, making it medically improbable for the deceased to speak after sustaining such injuries. Consequently, the alleged dying declaration could not be accepted as reliable. The Court further held that the confessional statement made by the appellant before the police was inadmissible under Section 25 of the Evidence Act, and there was no recovery or independent corroborative material linking him to the crime. The fact that the appellant was apprehended and assaulted by villagers on suspicion also weakened the prosecution's case, suggesting that his implication was a result of conjecture rather than direct proof.

Reiterating that conviction under Section 34 IPC requires clear evidence of shared intention and participation, the Court observed that no overt act or common design had been established against the appellant. Notably, other co-accused had already been acquitted on the same set of evidence. Finding that the conviction was unsustainable in law, the High Court set aside the judgment of the Trial Court and





acquitted the appellant Somra Oraon of all charges.

Judicial Caution in Confirming Death Sentences Amid Flawed Investigation

3. State of Jharkhand vs. Anand Kumar Dangi, Death Reference No. 6 of 2023 with Criminal Appeal (D.B.) No. 1707 of 2023 (Ananda Sen, Gautam Kumar Choudhary, J.J.)

The judgment authored by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gautam Kumar Choudhary noted that the prosecution's case disclosed that, apart from the appellant, there were at least two other persons — namely, Suresh Dangi (the father of the appellant) and Rangina Devi — who held grievances against the deceased. According to the evidence of P.W. 5, the deceased had been subjected to abuse and assault at the hands of Suresh Dangi and Rangina Devi; yet, the Court observed, these individuals were not put on trial because the investigation against them was still pending and a charge sheet had not been submitted. The Court also recorded the testimony of P.W. 2 (the brother of the deceased), who stated that on multiple occasions both the appellant and his father had threatened the deceased.

Further, the FIR and the informant's testimony revealed that it was Rangina Devi who had, on the very day of the incident, threatened the deceased's life. These facts, the Court observed, pointed to the involvement of at least two others with motive, and hence the circumstances did not conclusively establish that the appellant himself had committed the offence. In particular, the prosecution's claim that a spade was seized on the appellant's disclosure statement was found to be flawed: the body had been found on 14 December 2018, but the seizure was effected only on 15 December 2018, thereby undermining the chain of events relied upon. Similarly, the purported call-detail report (CDR) evidence was not brought on record and was not proved under Section 65B of the Indian Evidence Act.

The Court expressed its surprise that the trial court had accepted and relied upon the oral testimony of the Investigating Officer to establish the appellant's presence in the village at the time of the incident, and his constant contact with the deceased on the night of the occurrence — when, in fact, electronic records such as call-detail records were not placed on record or proved in the manner required by Section 65B of the Evidence Act. The Court emphasised that such electronic records constitute evidence and must be proven in the prescribed fashion when the originals are not available.

Given the manner in which the investigation, prosecution and trial were conducted — the non-prosecution of key persons with motive, the procedural defects, the





missing electronic evidence, and the weakness in the case against the appellant — the Court concluded that it had no option but to set aside the judgment of conviction and sentence passed against the appellant. Accordingly, the Court answered the Death Reference in the negative.

Judicial Restraint and Proportionality in Sentencing under Section 353 IPC

4. Gopal Malhotra v. State of Jharkhand, 2022 SCC OnLine Jhar 1407 (Shree Chandrashekhar, J.)

In this case, the Jharkhand High Court examined the scope of judicial discretion in awarding punishment under Section 353 of the IPC, which deals with assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from discharge of duty. The Court clarified that Section 353 IPC provides alternate modes of punishment—imprisonment, fine, or both—and therefore sentencing must be tailored to the circumstances of each case after weighing the aggravating and mitigating factors.

The petitioner, who along with his brother was convicted for obstructing the police during inspection of a liquor shop, had been sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment, i.e., the maximum punishment permissible under Section 353 IPC. On revision, the Court noted that although the conviction was based on concurrent findings and did not require re-appreciation of evidence, the sentencing court had failed to consider relevant mitigating factors, including the fact that the petitioner was not the owner of the shop, was a first-time offender, and the incident appeared to stem from a quarrel rather than premeditated obstruction.

Relying on the principle that sentencing must be commensurate with the gravity of the offence, and guided by the Supreme Court's observations in *State of Punjab v. Manjit Singh* regarding the need to balance mitigating and aggravating circumstances, the Court held that awarding the maximum sentence without such consideration was unjustified. The punishment of rigorous imprisonment was therefore set aside, and instead, the petitioner was sentenced to pay a fine of ₹50,000, with the stipulation that failure to pay would revive the earlier sentence.

The decision reinforces judicial restraint and proportionality in sentencing, particularly under offences where the statute provides flexible punishment options, ensuring that punishment does not become excessive in relation to the offender's role and circumstances.





EVOLVING JUDICIAL SAFEGUARDS IN THE LAW OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

The jurisprudence of the Jharkhand High Court demonstrates a steady evolution of judicial safeguards within the law of criminal procedure, marked by a strong commitment to fairness, consistency, and the protection of personal liberty. The Court has emphasized that procedural safeguards are not mere formalities but the foundation of justice itself, insisting on judicial discipline and coherence in decision-making to prevent arbitrariness and forum-shopping. It has underscored that matters such as suspension of sentence and bail require continuity before the same Bench to preserve institutional integrity, while coercive measures must always rest on clear judicial satisfaction rather than mechanical exercise of power. Through its consistent pronouncements, the Court has reaffirmed that personal liberty stands at the core of the rule of law, and any intrusion upon it must be justified through reasoned, lawful process. In doing so, the Jharkhand High Court has not only refined procedural law but also strengthened the moral and constitutional framework that guards against misuse of criminal process and ensures justice remains a living principle of governance.

Consistency in Appellate Procedure and Bench Discipline

1. Lurdhu Marandi & Ors. v. State of Jharkhand, 2015 (2) JLJR 407 (Virender Singh CJ., Rakesh Ranjan Prasad, D.N. Patel J.J.)

The 3 Judges Bench of the Hon'ble Jharkhand High Court addressed the question of whether successive applications for suspension of sentence under Section 389(1) of the CrPC should be heard by the same Bench that had earlier rejected a similar plea. The Court examined conflicting practices and clarified that judicial discipline and consistency are paramount. Drawing from Supreme Court precedents such as *Shahzad Hasan Khan v. Ishtiaq Hasan Khan*, *State of Maharashtra v. Captain Buddhikota Subha Rao*, and *Jagmohan Bahl v. State (NCT of Delhi)*, the Bench held that once a bail or suspension of sentence application has been rejected by a particular Bench, any subsequent application must, as a rule, be placed before the same Bench or before a Bench where one of its members continues to sit. This practice, the Court emphasized, safeguards against forum shopping, ensures consistency of judicial decisions, and maintains the credibility and decorum of the judiciary.

The Court reasoned that although there is no statutory provision mandating this procedure, judicial necessity and discipline require adherence to this principle. It equated the situation under Section 389(1) (suspension of sentence during appeal)





with that under Section 439 CrPC (bail for undertrials), since both result in the temporary release of an accused. The Bench concluded that only when the original Bench or its members are unavailable due to transfer, retirement, or exceptional circumstances, should the matter go before the regular roster Bench. The Court also noted Rule 68(3) of the Jharkhand High Court Rules, 2001, which prevents filing a similar application before another Bench after one has already been decided. Thus, the Full Bench authoritatively settled the procedural law within the Jharkhand High Court, holding that successive bail or suspension of sentence applications must ordinarily be listed before the same Bench to uphold judicial propriety and prevent misuse of process.

Inherent Powers Under Section 482 CrPC — Quashing as an Exceptional Remedy

2. Philips India Ltd. & Ors. v. State of Jharkhand & Ors., Cr. M.P. No. 1206 of 2003, Decided on 24.06.2016 (P.K. Mohanty, J.)

In this case, the Jharkhand High Court considered the scope of the High Court's inherent power under Section 482 CrPC to quash criminal proceedings at the pre-trial stage. The petitioners sought quashing of proceedings relating to alleged negligent installation of high mast lighting systems, which resulted in the collapse of one mast and the consequent death of an individual, leading to prosecution under Sections 287, 304-A, 417, 418, and 420 of the Indian Penal Code.

Relying on the principles laid down by the Supreme Court in *Rajiv Thapar v. Madan Lal Kapoor*, the Court reiterated that quashing is permissible only in exceptional circumstances, where the material relied upon by the accused is of unimpeachable character and demonstrably negates the allegations. The Court emphasized that at the investigation stage, when evidence is still being collected, it is not appropriate to test the merits, truthfulness, or sufficiency of the prosecution case, nor to evaluate the defence of the accused.

The High Court held that where allegations in the complaint prima facie disclose the ingredients of the offences alleged, and the investigation is ongoing, interference under Section 482 CrPC is unwarranted, as doing so would prematurely foreclose the prosecution's right to establish its case through evidence. Accordingly, the application for quashing was dismissed, with directions to the petitioner to cooperate with the trial and to apply for bail, and to the State to complete the investigation expeditiously.

This decision reinforces the principle that inherent powers under Section 482 CrPC are to be exercised sparingly, and that criminal proceedings should not be quashed





merely on the basis of disputed factual defences, particularly where investigation is incomplete and evidentiary assessment is yet to unfold.

Coercive Processes and the Sanctity of Liberty

3. Md. Rustum Alam @ Rustam & Ors. v. State of Jharkhand, 2020 SCC OnLine Jhar 1963 (Ananda Sen J.)

In *Md. Rustum Alam*, the Jharkhand High Court quashed a series of coercive orders issued by the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Latehar, including a non-bailable warrant, proclamation under Section 82 CrPC, and attachment under Section 83 CrPC. Justice Ananda Sen found that all three orders had been passed mechanically, without recording the judicial satisfaction required by law.

The Court emphasized that a non-bailable warrant, which directly impacts personal liberty, must be issued only after confirming that the accused is not merely absent but deliberately evading arrest. Likewise, a proclamation under Section 82 must rest on a judicial finding that the person has absconded or is concealing himself to avoid arrest, and attachment under Section 83 may follow only after due publication and compliance with Section 82(3).

Relying on Supreme Court precedents such as *Inder Mohan Goswami v. State of Uttaranchal* (2007) 12 SCC 1 and *Raghuvansh Dewanchand Bhasin v. State of Maharashtra* (2012) 9 SCC 791, the Court reiterated that coercive measures are to be used as a last resort, not as a routine response. By setting aside the impugned orders, the Court reaffirmed that procedural compliance is not a formality but a constitutional safeguard against arbitrary deprivation of liberty.

Constitutional Precision and Safeguards Against Misuse of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act

4. Sunil Kumar v. State of Jharkhand & Ors.; W.P. (Cr.) No. 1146 of 2023 , Decided on 8 April 2025 (Anil Kumar Choudhary, J.)

In this case, the Jharkhand High Court examined the threshold requirements for invoking offences under Sections 3(1)(r) and 3(1)(s) of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, particularly in allegations of verbal abuse and official misconduct. The petitioner, a Settlement Officer, was accused of misbehaviour and derogatory remarks towards the informant, who described herself as an “Adivasi.” An FIR was registered under various provisions of the IPC as well as under the SC/ST Act.

The Court emphasized that the applicability of the SC/ST Act is conditioned upon





the complainant belonging to a caste or tribe specifically notified under Article 342 of the Constitution and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950. The term “Adivasi” does not, by itself, denote a Scheduled Tribe, and the FIR failed to assert membership in any notified Scheduled Tribe. The statutory basis for prosecution under the SC/ST Act was therefore absent. The Court also noted that the FIR referred to the non-existent “SC/ST Act, 2016,” reflecting prima facie legal infirmity in the registration of the case.

Further, the Court held that the allegations did not satisfy the essential ingredients of Section 354 IPC, as no intent to outrage modesty was pleaded or inferable. The allegation of wrongful restraint under Section 341 IPC was not supported by material facts, and the remaining alleged offences under Sections 323, 504, and 506 IPC were non-cognizable, requiring due complaint procedure rather than direct police investigation.

Holding that even if the allegations were accepted in full, no cognizable offence was disclosed, the Court concluded that the continuation of criminal proceedings would amount to misuse of the criminal law process. Accordingly, the FIR in Dumka Sadar SC/ST P.S. Case No. 07 of 2023 was quashed, and the writ petition was allowed.

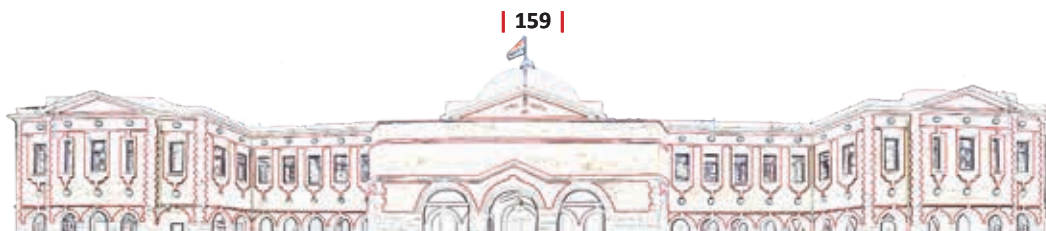
The decision underscores the importance of constitutional exactness in identifying Scheduled Tribe status, and affirms judicial vigilance against the misapplication of penal statutes designed for targeted social protection.

Revisional Jurisdiction and Judicial Hierarchy — Propriety in Invoking Section 397 CrPC

5. Dharam Kumar Saw @ Dharam Kr. Gupta & Ors. v. State of Jharkhand & Anr.; Criminal Revision No. 417 of 2023, Decided on 11 September 2025 (Sanjay Kumar Dwivedi, J.)

In this decision, the Jharkhand High Court clarified the principles governing the exercise of revisional jurisdiction under Section 397 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The petitioners challenged the rejection of their discharge application under Section 245 CrPC by directly approaching the High Court, without first invoking revision before the Sessions Court. The Court examined whether such direct approach was appropriate when both the Sessions Judge and the High Court possess concurrent revisional authority over orders passed by a Magistrate.

The Court held that although Section 397 CrPC, read with Section 401, does not bar filing a revision directly before the High Court, the doctrine of judicial propriety and





hierarchical discipline requires that ordinarily the Sessions Court, being the elder superior Court, should be approached first. The revisional power is not confined to examining the legality or correctness of the Magistrate's order, but extends to testing its propriety, and in such matters, procedural hierarchy must be respected to prevent unnecessary bypassing of judicial forums.

However, the Court recognized that exceptional circumstances may justify direct recourse to the High Court—particularly where the Sessions Judge has participated in or is otherwise connected with the proceedings in a manner that may affect impartial adjudication. Outside such rare conditions, filing revision directly before the High Court would be considered premature and contrary to the customary judicial structure.

Accordingly, while acknowledging the absence of statutory prohibition, the Court reaffirmed that as a matter of sound judicial practice, litigants should first seek remedy before the Sessions Court, reserving the High Court's revisional jurisdiction for circumstances where intervention is required to safeguard justice, neutrality, and procedural propriety.

EVIDENTIARY STANDARDS IN PENAL STATUTES — PROTECTION AGAINST MISUSE

The jurisprudence of the Jharkhand High Court reveals a deliberate progression toward strengthening evidentiary rigor and preventing the misuse of criminal law. The Court has insisted that allegations of cruelty in matrimonial disputes be substantiated by credible and convincing proof, placing the burden squarely on the party asserting such claims. It has also drawn a firm boundary between civil wrongs and criminal offences by holding that contractual breaches, in the absence of fraudulent intent, cannot be criminalized through provisions such as cheating. In cases involving serious charges, it has demonstrated readiness to overturn convictions where procedural lapses and evidentiary deficiencies undermine the integrity of the trial. Further, it has emphasized strict adherence to statutory timelines and procedural requirements, particularly in regulatory offences, reiterating that even technical deviations can affect the maintainability of proceedings. Together, these developments reflect a growing judicial insistence on precise evidence, fair procedure, and principled restraint in the use of penal statutes, thereby safeguarding individuals from unwarranted criminal prosecution.





Alarming procedural lapses prevalent in criminal trials

1. Tala Dada @ Ramjit Murmu v. State of Jharkhand, 2015 SCC OnLine Jhar 1761 (Virender Singh C.J., PP Bhatt J.)

In the said Judgment the Division Bench of the Hon'ble Jharkhand High Court set aside the conviction of the appellant under Section 302 IPC due to serious procedural and evidentiary irregularities that rendered the trial unsustainable in law. The central legal issue before the Court was whether a conviction for murder could be sustained in the absence of valid medical evidence proving homicidal death. The prosecution had failed to examine the doctor who conducted the postmortem examination, and instead, a clerk from an advocate's office—who had no connection with the case—was made to prove the post-mortem report. The Court observed that such a practice was legally untenable under the Evidence Act, as the clerk was neither a competent witness nor capable of identifying the doctor's signature.

Holding that the failure to examine the medical officer created a fatal gap in establishing the cause of death, the Bench concluded that the trial court and prosecution had failed in their legal duty, thereby vitiating the entire proceedings. Consequently, the conviction was set aside, and the matter was remanded to the trial court for re-examination of the medical evidence in accordance with law.

The Court raised broader institutional concerns over the alarming procedural lapses prevalent in criminal trials across the State. It severely criticized both the Public Prosecutors and the trial judiciary for their “casual and mechanical” approach to trials, describing such conduct as a serious threat to the criminal justice system. The Bench highlighted that the failure to follow basic provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, including proper examination of witnesses and adherence to Section 309 CrPC regarding adjournments, had become a systemic ailment undermining public confidence in justice. Drawing from Supreme Court precedents such as *Vinod Kumar v. State of Punjab* (2015), the Court emphasized that fair trial obligations apply equally to the prosecution and the accused, and that neglect of procedural safeguards can lead to miscarriage of justice. It directed that the judgment be circulated to all trial judges and the State Judicial Academy to ensure training and compliance with procedural law, ending with the admonition: “Awake! Arise!”—a call for systemic reform in the administration of criminal justice in Jharkhand.

Matrimonial Discord and the Burden of Proof in Allegations of Cruelty

2. Gopal Chandra Mallick v. Manjari Mallick, 2003 (2) JLJR 472 (R. K. Merathia, Gurusharan Sharma, JJ.)





The present case, arose from an appeal by the husband challenging the dismissal of his Title Matrimonial Suit No. 113 of 1994 under Section 10 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, seeking a decree of judicial separation on the ground that his wife had treated him with cruelty since 13 June 1994.

The core legal issue before the Hon'ble Division Bench of the Jharkhand High Court was whether the allegations of cruelty made by the husband were substantiated by credible evidence to justify judicial separation. The Court held that the determination of cruelty must consider the entire matrimonial relationship and facts of the case, with the burden of proof lying heavily on the spouse alleging cruelty.

The Court examined the evidence and observed that the husband failed to prove that his wife ever refused cohabitation, harbored animus, or caused mental torture amounting to cruelty. The trial court had rightly found that the wife had not treated her husband with cruelty and that the husband's allegations were unsubstantiated and false.

Upholding the trial court's findings, the Division Bench dismissed the appeal, affirming that the husband was not entitled to a decree of judicial separation, and held that there was no merit in the appeal.

Distinguishing Civil Wrongs from Criminal Offences — Contractual Breaches and the Absence of Mens Rea under Section 420 IPC

3. Shri Anand Mahindra and Others v. The State of Jharkhand and Another, 2006 Cri LJ 4204 (D. K. Sinha, J.)

The present case is related to a complaint invoking criminal prosecution under Section 420 of the Indian Penal Code against the petitioners concerning alleged deficiencies in services under the Membership Rules of a company. The core legal issue before the Hon'ble Jharkhand High Court was whether the dispute involved a criminal offense or arose solely from contractual obligations enforceable in a civil forum.

The Court examined the Membership Rules, which established a contractual relationship between the Company and its members and included an arbitration clause under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. It held that the essential ingredients of Section 420 IPC specifically, dishonest intention from the inception of the transaction to induce a person and cause wrongful loss, were lacking. The complaint failed to demonstrate that the petitioners had any fraudulent or dishonest intention at the time of entering the contract.





The Court concluded that contractual obligations cannot be converted into criminal liability under Section 420 IPC. It observed that the appropriate forum for resolving such disputes is a civil forum or arbitration as provided under the Membership Rules, and dismissed the criminal prosecution as unsustainable.

Reverse Presumption under Section 138 NI Act — Necessity of Foundational Proof Before Burden Shifts

4. Hazari Prasad v. The State of Jharkhand and another, Criminal Revision No. 592 of 2016, Decided on 22 June 2022 (Shree Chandrashekhar J.)

In this case, the Jharkhand High Court examined the scope of the reverse presumption under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, particularly in relation to Section 106 of the Indian Evidence Act. The Court reaffirmed that the statutory presumption against the accused under the N.I. Act is not automatic, and may arise only when the complainant first establishes a prima facie case showing the foundational facts of issuance and liability.

Relying on the Supreme Court's decision, the Court reiterated that the burden initially lies upon the complainant to prove circumstances that justify drawing such presumption; the accused is not required to disprove a case that has not been properly made out in the first place. The High Court observed that the case presented by the complainant suffered from multiple suspicious circumstances, and the evidence fell short of establishing the necessary factual foundation to invoke the presumption under Section 138 of the N.I. Act.

The Court upheld the finding of the appellate court which had concluded that no prima facie liability was proved and therefore, no reverse burden could be imposed on the accused under Section 106 of the Evidence Act. Accordingly, the criminal revision petition was dismissed, affirming the acquittal of Opposite Party No. 2.

The decision underscores the principle that presumptions in penal statutes must be invoked with caution, and procedural fairness requires that the prosecution must first discharge its initial burden before any evidentiary shift can occur against the accused.

***"Law is not law, if it violates
the principles of eternal justice."***

– Lydia Maria Child





Procedural Precision and Premature Complaints under the Negotiable Instruments Act

5. Md. Nasim Ansari v. The State of Jharkhand, Cr. Rev. No. 685 of 2012, Decided on 19 July 2021) (Anubha Rawat Choudhary, J.)

In *Md. Nasim Ansari*, Hon'ble Ms. Justice Anubha Rawat Choudhary examined whether a complaint under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act was maintainable when filed before the expiry of the statutory period following service of legal notice. The Court observed that since the notice had been sent under a certificate of posting rather than registered post, the presumption of service under Section 27 of the General Clauses Act did not arise. Even assuming deemed service, the complaint was filed before the statutory 15-day period had expired.

Relying on the Supreme Court's decision in *Yogendra Pratap Singh v. Savitri Pandey* (2014) 10 SCC 713, the High Court held the complaint premature and therefore not maintainable. The decision reiterates the need for strict procedural compliance in prosecutions under special statutes.

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND PROTECTION OF MINORS

The jurisprudence relating to children under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 continues to emphasize both rehabilitative protection for child offenders and stringent safeguarding of child victims. While the law mandates a liberal and welfare-oriented approach in considering bail for children in conflict with law, it simultaneously imposes strict statutory prohibitions on the disclosure of the identity of child victims of sexual offences. Courts consistently reiterate that bail to juveniles should ordinarily be granted unless specifically barred under the proviso to Section 12 of the JJ Act. At the same time, any act—direct or indirect—that enables the identification of a child victim attracts criminal liability, and even *prima facie* material is sufficient to proceed to trial in such cases. Together, these judicial principles highlight the dual commitment of child protection law: rehabilitation on one hand and uncompromising confidentiality and dignity on the other.

Consideration of Bail Applications by Juveniles in Heinous Offence

1. Amit Kumar Mandal vs State of Jharkhand; Cr. Revision No. 506 of 2023 (Subhash Chand J.)

The brief facts leading to this Criminal Revision are that the FIR of Case Crime No.224 of 2022 was lodged by the mother of the victim with these allegations that her daughter 17 years old had told her over the mobile phone that on 01.09.2022 while she was going





to Girls High School, Bengabad at 08:30 in the morning, in the market of Bengabad, the accused who was standing there having parked of his motorcycle, asked the daughter of the informant to drop her to the school and made her seated on the motorcycle. Thereafter, he took her to the house of his relative, where he established physical relation forcibly with the daughter of an informant and he assured her to marry with her and having reached at Bajrangbali Mandir, solemnized marriage. Subsequently, the family members of the accused and the accused himself refused to marry her, hence, this FIR was lodged against three named accused persons including the petitioner as shown in the FIR. The bail application of the petitioner has been rejected by the learned Court below on the ground that the offence was heinous in nature.

Section 2(12) of the J.J. Act, 2015 defines 'child' as a person who has not completed the age of 18 years of age. The 'child in conflict' with law is defined under Section 2(13), which means a child who is alleged or found to have committed an offence, who has not completed the age of 18 years on the date of commission of such offence. Since the Act of 2015 is a Special Act, which contains provision for, the same shall prevail over the provisions of Cr.P.C. From the close reading of Section 12 of the J.J. Act, 2015, it is the only provision under this Act which deals with grant of bail to children in conflict with law. It does not debar a child, who has completed or is above 16 years and is alleged to have committed a 'heinous offence' from maintaining his application for release on bail during pendency of preliminary assessment by Board under Section 15 of the J.J. Act, 2015 or from maintaining an application for release on bail after transfer of case to Children's Court for trial.

Palpably, the petitioner comes within the definition of 'child' and 'child in conflict with law'. Therefore, the bail application of the petitioner shall be governed by Section 12 of the J.J. Act, 2015. It is settled law that the bail application of a juvenile should ordinarily be allowed, except the circumstances as laid down under the proviso of Section 12 of the J.J. Act, 2015. In view of the Social Investigation Report, none of the ground is shown against the CCL as under the proviso of Section 12 of the J.J. Act, 2015.

In consequence thereof, the petitioner-CCL was directed to be released on bail on furnishing bail bond of Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand) with two sureties of the like amount on behalf of his guardian (maternal uncle) to the satisfaction of the court concerned. The guardian of the CCL (maternal uncle) would also give undertaking that he would keep his vigil eyes upon him and would restrain him from coming in association with the known criminals.





Protection of Identity of Child Victims — Prima Facie Threshold for Charges in Disclosure Offences

2. Dr. Irfan Ansari v. State of Jharkhand; Criminal Revision No. 1254 of 2022, Decided on 6 September 2024 (Arun Kumar Rai, J.)

In this decision, the Jharkhand High Court examined the scope of criminal liability for disclosure of the identity of a child victim of sexual assault, and the threshold for framing charges under Section 228A IPC, Section 23 of the POCSO Act, and Section 74 of the Juvenile Justice Act. The petitioner, a public representative, was alleged to have taken and subsequently circulated photographs and identifying details of a minor rape victim to media platforms, and challenged the trial court's refusal to discharge him under Section 227 CrPC.

The Court held that the statutory provisions governing child victim identity protection impose strict prohibitions against disclosure, whether direct or indirect, through any form of media, including digital and social platforms. Relying on *Som Nath Thapa* and *Amit Kapoor*, the Court reiterated that at the stage of framing of charge, the requirement is only to determine whether there exists a prima facie case or reasonable suspicion, and not to undertake a detailed analysis of the evidence. The Court further referred to *Nipun Saxena v. Union of India*, affirming that even remote or indirect identification of a minor victim constitutes an offence.

On the material placed, including consistent witness statements and the admitted use of the petitioner's mobile device for circulation of the photographs, the Court found that the origin and intent behind the dissemination were sufficiently linked to the petitioner to warrant continuation of the trial. The plea that the act was carried out solely by the petitioner's secretary was rejected, the Court observing that criminal liability is personal and cannot be shifted by attributing actions to subordinates or associates.

The High Court therefore upheld the trial court's refusal to discharge and sustained the framing of charges, permitting the criminal proceedings to continue, while clarifying that its observations were limited to the revisional scope and would not prejudice the defence at trial.

This judgment reinforces strict judicial protection of child victim anonymity, and underscores that unauthorized dissemination of identifying information will attract criminal liability at the threshold stage of prosecution.



DISTRICT JUDICIARY - SPINE OF JUDICIAL SYSTEM

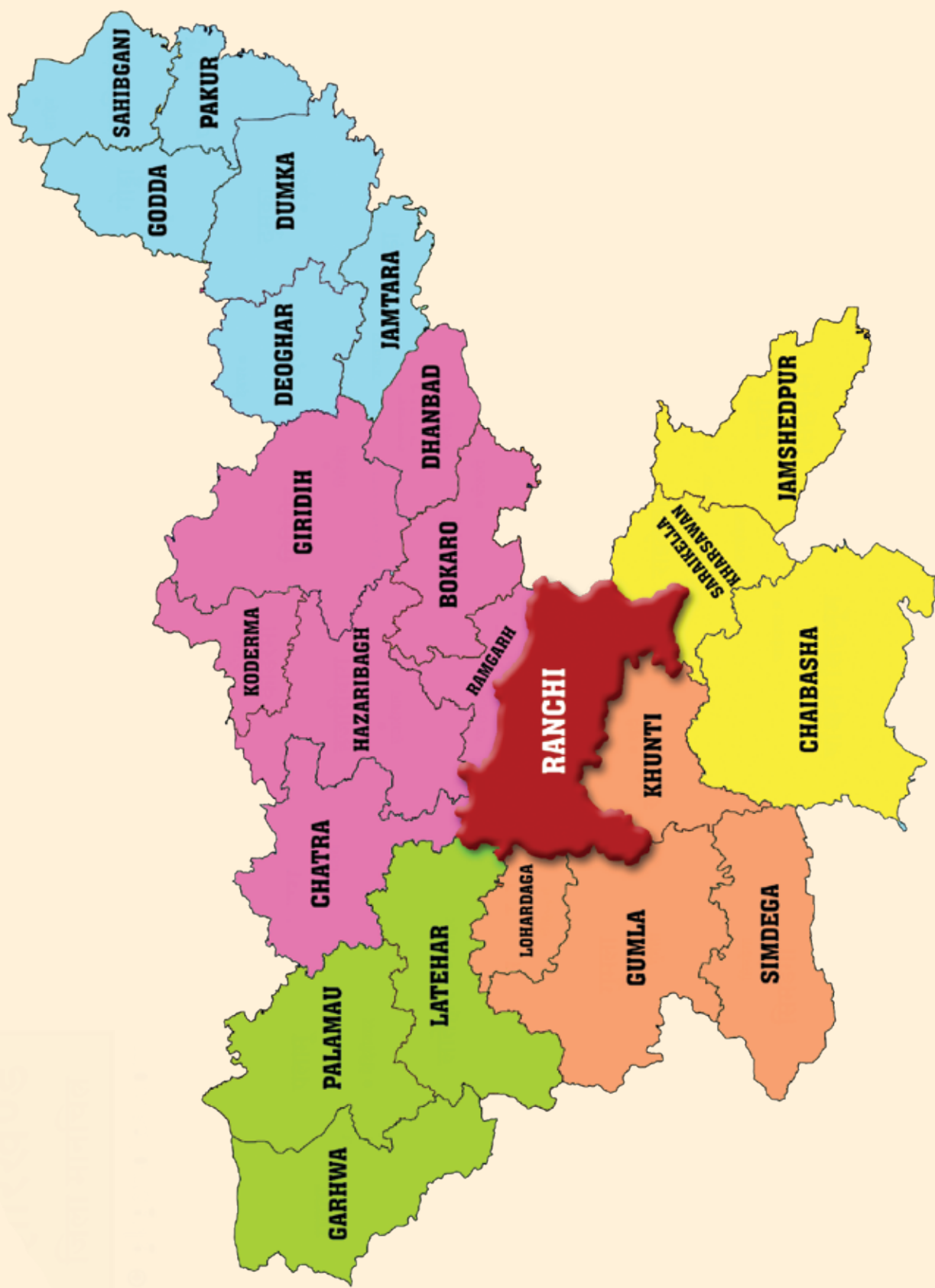
“Our Constitution recognizes and protects a District Judge as a vital cog in the judicial system. Respect ought to be accorded to this institution and its contribution to the country.”

Dr. D.Y. Chandrachud

Chief Justice of India

In All India Judges Association v. Union of India & Ors.

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No. 643/2015





Group Photographs of Judicial Officers of Different Batches Appointed in 25 Years



Batch of Addl. District Judge (Direct), Jharkhand (Year 2001)



Batch-A of Civil Judge, Jharkhand (Year 2002)





Batch-B of Civil Judge, Jharkhand (Year 2002)



Batch-A of Civil Judge, Jharkhand (Year 2011)





Batch-B of Civil Judge, Jharkhand (Year 2011)



Batch of Addl. District Judge (Direct), Jharkhand (Year 2012)





Batch of Civil Judge, Jharkhand (Year 2015)



Batch of Civil Judge, Jharkhand (Year 2018)





Batch of Addl. District Judge (Direct), Jharkhand (Year 2019)



Batch-A of Civil Judge, Jharkhand (Year 2020)





Batch-B of Civil Judge, Jharkhand (Year 2020)



Batch of Addl. District Judge (Direct), Jharkhand (Year 2024)





CIVIL COURT, BOKARO

Nestled in the heart of the Chhotanagpur plateau, Bokaro district was formally created in 1991. India's first indigenous steel plant Bokaro Steel Limited (BSL) was established here with the technical collaboration of the former Soviet Union and was later amalgamated with the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).



Judicial Officers of Bokaro

Sitting Left to Right

Sri Manoranjan Kumar No. 1, Mrs. Garima Mishra, Sri Deepak Baranwal, Sri Anil Kumar Mishra No. 2 (PDJ), Sri Arvind Kumar No. 1 (Pr.Judge, Family Court), Sri Devesh Kumar Tripathi, Sri Ravi Ranjan (PO, Labour Court)

Standing Left to Right

Sri Abhinandan Pandey, Mrs. Payal Jha, Mrs. Shristi Kumari, Sri Mohit, Ms. Tadinda Khan, Sri Anuj Kumar No. 2, Sri Kishor Kumar, Sri Arun Kumar Dubey





Judicial Officers of the Sub-Division Bermo at Tenughat

Sitting Left to Right

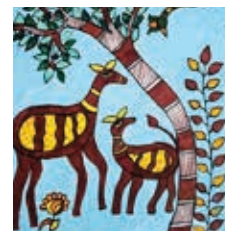
Sri Shivraj Mishra, Sri Digvijay Nath Shukla, Sri Rajkumar Pandey, Sri Premnath Pandey, Md. Fahim Kirmani, Sri Suryamani Tripathi, Sri Niraj Kumar, Sri Manoj Prajapati, Ms. Rashmi Agrawal

JUDGESHIP

The Bokaro Judgeship came into existence on 8th September 1995 by carving out the Chas Sub-Division from Dhanbad Judgeship and the Bermo-at-Tenughat Sub-Division from Giridih Judgeship. The Sub-Divisional Civil Court, Chas was inaugurated in 1984, while the Sub-Divisional Civil Court, Bermo was established earlier in 1972 under the Giridih Judgeship and subsequently shifted to Tenughat.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Bokaro Steel Plant : Incorporated in 1964, it is recognized as India's first Swadeshi (indigenous) steel plant. It is today one of Asia's largest by area and stands as a symbol of national industrial self-reliance.

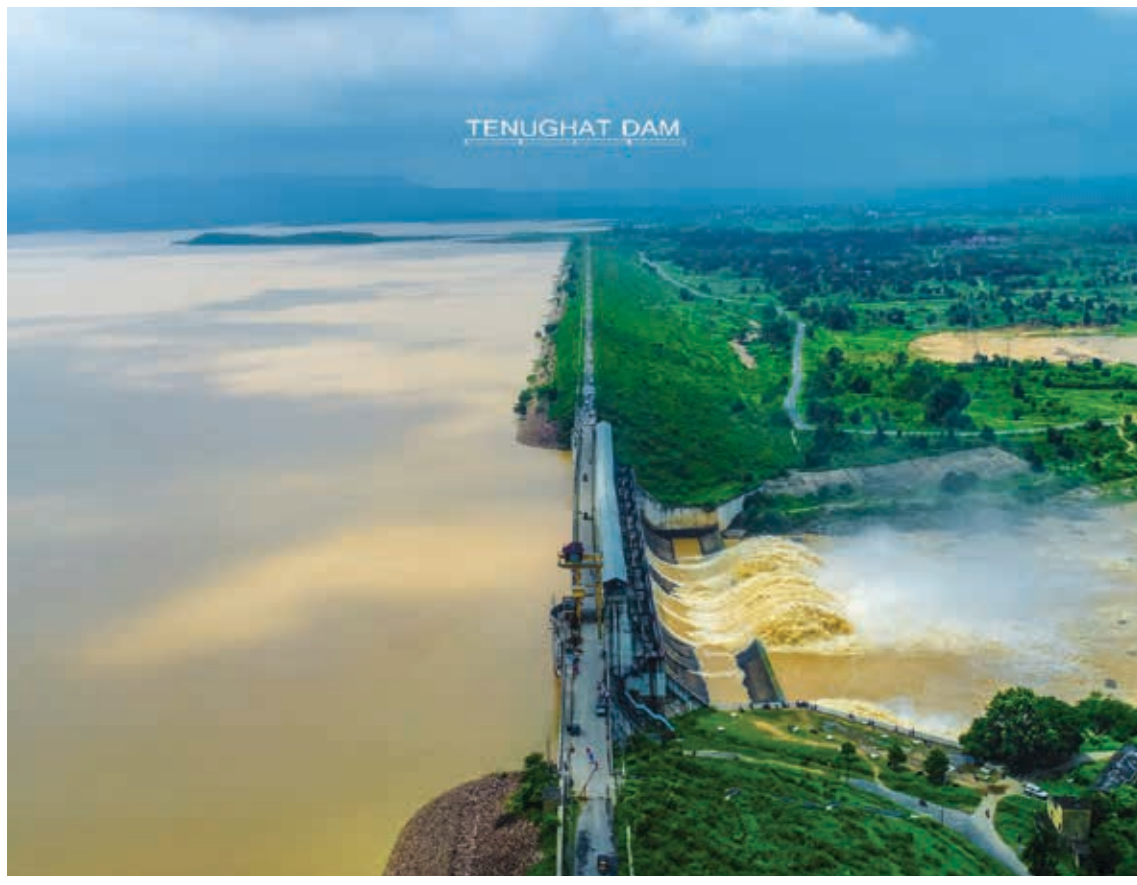




Luguburu Ghantabari Dhorom Gadh: Located in the Bermo Sub-Division, this place is sacred to the Santhal tribe and hosts important cultural and religious activities.



Tenughat Dam:- It is an earthfill dam with composite masonry sum concrete spillway across the Damodar River at Tenughat. It is one of the biggest earthen dams in Asia.





CIVIL COURT, CHATRA

Chatra, also known as the gateway to Chhotanagpur, has the highest forest cover in the State of Jharkhand. Raja Ram Mohan Roy has served as Sirishtedar at the Chatra Registry Office (1805–06), where a Munsif had first been appointed in 1799. Eminent freedom fighter Babu Ram Narayan Singh, known as the “Chhotanagpur Kesri,” was elected to the Constituent Assembly from Chatra.

JUDGESHIP

The Judgeship of Chatra was carved out from the erstwhile Judgeship of Hazaribag on 16th June 2001. On 18th June 2011, the Judgeship was shifted to its present complex.

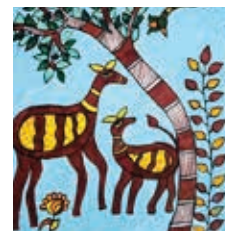


Judicial Officers of Chatra

First Row (Left to Right) - Shri Amresh Kumar, Sri Kamal Kumar Shrivastava (Pr.Judge, Family Court), Shri Shambhu Lal Shaw (PDJ), Shri Shazad Mohammad Shazad,

Second row (Left to Right) : Mrs. Sonali Singh, Sri Prashant Singh, Sri Purnendu Sharma, Mrs. S.S. Minz, Sri Tarkeshwar Das

Third row (Left to Right) : Sri S.P. Thakur, Sri Edith Horo, Sri B.K. Lal, Sri Randhir Kumar Singh, Sri Satyapal, Sri Milan Kumar Sri S.S. Tirkey





PLACES OF INTEREST

Harjeevan Talab, popularly known as Fansi Talab, has witnessed the mass hanging of around 150 revolutionaries during the Battle of Chatra on October 2, 1857. Following the defeat, revolutionaries Jaimangal Pandey and Nadir Ali Khan were executed near Harjeevan Talab on October 4, 1857.



“Maa Bhadrakali” at Itkhor is a sacrosanct and is made of single Gommed stone. It is a center of pilgrimage attracting devotees from all over India.

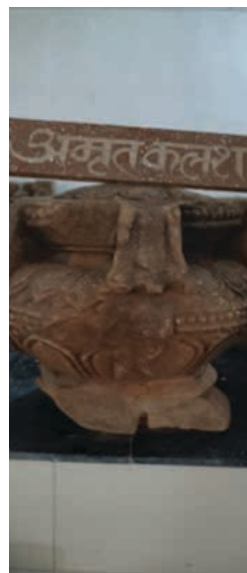




Hunterganj is also an important place of worship of Sikhs where about 2-3 hundred years **Old Hand written Guru Granth Sahib** has been kept which is occasionally available for public viewing.

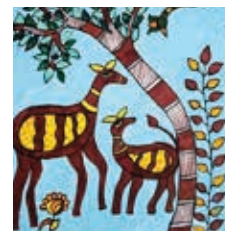


Remains of Historical importance found during excavation at Itkhori, Chatra



"Archaeology is the peeping tom of the sciences. It is the sandbox of men who care not where they are going; they merely want to know where everyone else has been."

- James Bishop





CIVIL COURT, DEOGHAR

Deoghar district, located in the Santhal Pargana division of Jharkhand, was formed on 1st June 1983 after being carved out from Dumka district. The name Deoghar, derived from 'Dev' (God) and 'Ghar' (abode), meaning "Abode of Gods and Goddesses." Deoghar is also known as "Baidyanath Dham" or "Baba Dham" and is a prominent pilgrimage center situated on the banks of the Mayurakshi river.

JUDGESHIP

The Judgeship of Deoghar was established on 26th May 1984 whereas the Madhupur Sub-Divisional Civil Court was established on 24th December 1993. India's first online trial was conducted at Madhupur Sub-Divisional Court. The facility was inaugurated virtually by Hon'ble Justice Altamas Kabir Former Judge Supreme Court of India.



Baba Baidyanath Atithi Griha, Jharkhand High Court



Judicial Officers of Deoghar and Madupur Sub-Division

Sitting (left to right) : Sri Ananda Singh, Ms.Divya Mishra, Sri Mukulesh Chandra Narain, Sri Rajeev Ranjan, Sri Kaushal Kishor Jha (PDJ), Sri Sanjay Kr.Singh (Pr.Judge, Family Court), Sri Rajendra Kr.

Sinha, Sri Ashok Kumar No.III, Sri Bhanu Pratap Singh

Standing (left to right) : Ms. Swati Vijay Upadhyay, Ms.Sangita,

Sri Bankim Chandra Chaterjee,

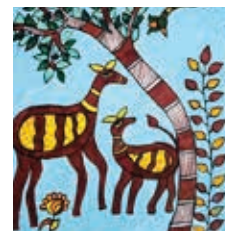
Sri Pratik Ranjan, Sri Sandip Nishit Bara



Left to Right : Sri Julian Anand Topno, Ms.Shikha Rani Tigga,

Sri Avinash Kumar Dubey, Ms.Pooja,

Ms.Sucheta Nidhi Tigga, Ms.Purnima Tirkey





PLACES OF INTEREST

Baba Baidyanath Dham Mandir: The temple houses the sacred Jyotirlinga of Lord Shiva along with 21 other temples, showcasing India's rich spiritual heritage. It is revered as a divine confluence of Shiva and Shakti.

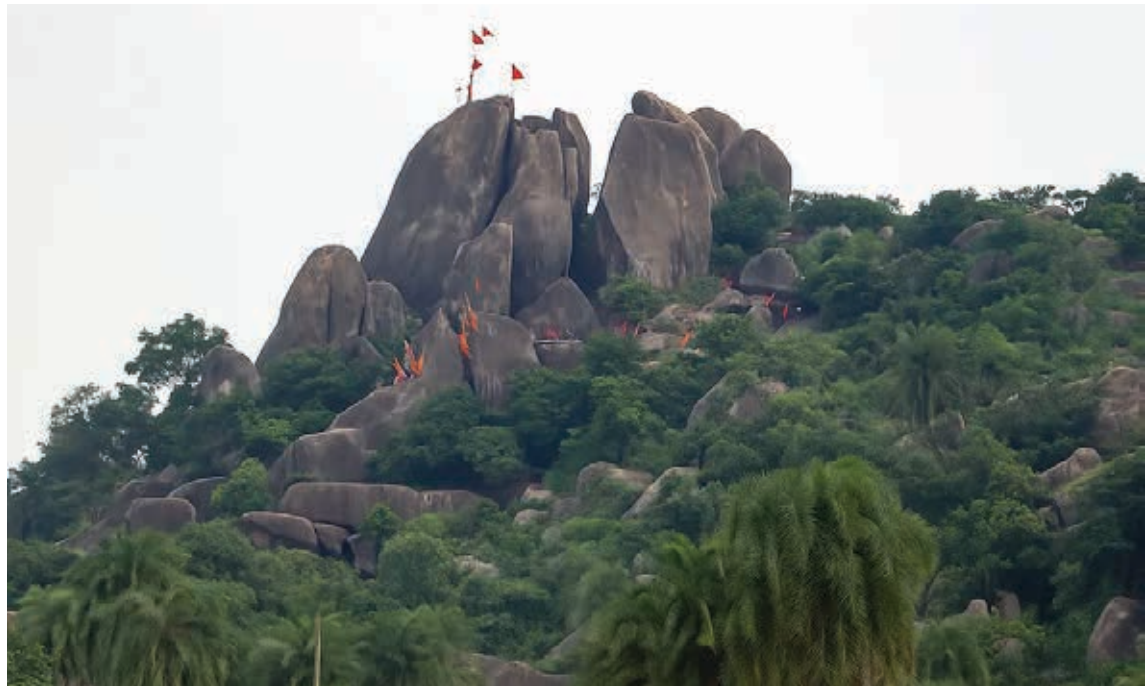


Trikut Hills: It features three majestic peaks rising to 2,470 feet and is famous for its ropeway and scenic beauty. During the monsoon it is often draped in clouds.

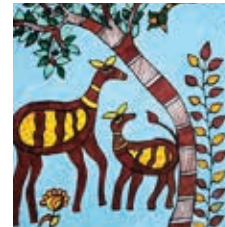




Tapovan Hills: It is famous for Tapo Nath Mahadev – a temple of Lord Shiva. It is named Tapovan because in the olden days it was a meditation spot (Tapobhumi) for the Nagas.



Naulakha Temple: It features Radha-Krishna idols and architecture inspired by Ramakrishna Math, Kolkata. It was built with ₹ 9,00,000/- donation by Queen Charushila of Pathuria Ghat kings' family of Kolkata.





Rikhia Yoga Ashram: It was Established in 1988 by Swami Satyananda Saraswati. It is a serene center for yoga, meditation, and peace. It comprises Rikhiapeeth, Sivananda Ashram, and Sivananda Math.



Maa Pathrol Kali Temple: Located in Madhupur, the temple is dedicated to Goddess Kali. It was built by Raja Digvijay Singh about 6 to 7 centuries ago.





CIVIL COURT, DHANBAD

Dhanbad, known as the Coal Capital of India, became a separate district in 1956 and was earlier part of Manbhum District. It is full of hilly regions in the north, coal-rich uplands in the center and fertile plains south of the Damodar River. Major rivers like Damodar and Barakar flow through it.

JUDGESHIP

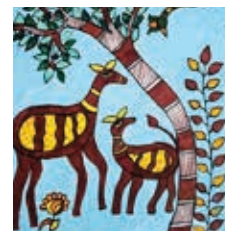
The Judgeship of Dhanbad was established on 1st November 1956 from the erstwhile Manbhum district. Initially the Civil Court was established in 1901 at Baghsuma and later shifted to present day's Hirapur, Dhanbad in 1908.



Judicial Officers of Dhanbad

Sitting (left to right) : Sri Ishraque Zeya Khan, Sri Permanand Upadhyay, Sri Pradeep Kumar, Sri Prafulla Kumar, Sri Vijay Kumar Srivastava, Sri Manish, Sri Subhash (Pr. Judge, Family Court), Sri Virendra Kumar Tiwari, (PDJ), Sri Kamlesh Kumar Shukla, Sri Manish Ranjan, Sri Kumar Saket, Sri Paras Kumar Sinha, Sri Vikesh, Ms. Arti Mala, Sri Parth Sarthi Ghosh

Standing : Sri Mayank Tushar Toppo, Sri Rishi Kumar, Sri Manoj Kumar, Ms. Saquia Kausar, Ms. Angelina John, Ms. Sama Roshani Kullu, Ms. Nirmala Barla, Ms. Satyabhama Kumari, Ms. Srishti Ghai, Ms. Aishwarya Srivastava, Ms. Nutan Ekka, Ms. Apekchha, Ms. Megha Priyanka Lakra, Ms. Anamika Kachchap, Ms. Arpita Narayan, Ms. Shivani Sharma, Sri Abhijeet Pandey





OUTSTANDING JUDICIAL ACHIEVEMENTS:

- ❖ **S.T.No. 01/2010:** The accused faced trial for offence under Sections 364A, 302, 201 and 120B IPC relating to the kidnapping and murder of a seven and half-year-old school boy. The trial was concluded within a month and five accused stood convicted and were sentenced to life imprisonment till their natural life with fines.
- ❖ **S.T. No. 501/2014:** The accused faced trial for offence under Sections 302 and 120B IPC. The trial was concluded within eight months and accused stood and were sentenced to life imprisonment with fines of ₹10,000 each.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Bhatinda Falls -A picturesque waterfall situated amongst rocky hillocks and greenery. It is situated at the confluence of the Katri and Damodar rivers near the falls adds to its scenic beauty.



Maithon Lake / Dam: This dam is built over the Barakar river and there is under ground power station one of its kind in whole of South East Asia. Maithnan dam is the largest water reservoir of Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC).





CIVIL COURT, DUMKA

Dumka, also the second capital of Jharkhand, was carved out of the Bhagalpur and Birbhum district after the Santal Hool of 1855. Located at the top of the hills of “*Damin-e-Koh*,” district holds great religious significance with Baba Basukinath Temple and Maluti Temple. The district has also played an important role during freedom struggle.

JUDGESHIP

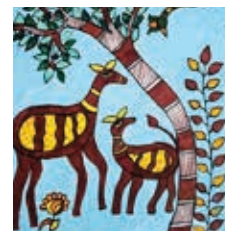
Dumka Judgeship was established on 16th April 1947, carved out of Bhagalpur District of Bihar. Dumka at one time was one of the oldest judgeship of Bihar comprising of the present days of Deoghar, Godda, Sahibganj, Jamtara and Pakur. The main building which is the Heritage Building (Administrative Block) was inaugurated on 12th April, 1947.



Judicial Officers of Dumka

Left to Right (Sitting) : Sri Rajesh Sinha, Sri Surendra Nath Mishra, Sri Shatrunjay Kumar Singh, Sri Sudhanshu Kumar Shashi (PDJ), Sri Yogeshwar Mani (Pr. Judge, Family Court), Sri Prakash Jha, Sri Yogesh Kumar Singh, Sri Rajesh Srivastava

Left to Right (Standing) : Sri Walter Bhengra, Sri Uttam Sagar Rana, Sri Anup Tirkey, Sri Mohit Chaudhary, Smt. Neha Jha, Sri Aditya





OUTSTANDING JUDICIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- ❖ **Special POCSO Case No.34/2022** – The accused had set on fire a 16-year-old girl after she had rejected his advances. The victim succumbed to injuries leading to her death. The trial was completed within 18 months of framing of charge and accused (Shahrukh Hussain & Naeem Ansari) were convicted for offence under Sections 302/34, 120B, 506 IPC and 12 POCSO Act and were sentenced to life imprisonment.
- ❖ **Special POCSO Case No. 01/2017** – The accused was tried for charge of offence under Section 364, 376, 302, 201 IPC, and 4 POCSO Act for having kidnapped, raped and murder of a six year-old girl. The trial was concluded within 11 months 11 days of framing of charge. The convicts were sentenced to death on 11.10.2018, later commuted to life imprisonment on appeal.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Baba Basukinath Dham: A prominent Hindu pilgrimage site is famous for the Basukinath Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva and attracts lacs of devotees, especially during the month of Shravan.



Malooti Temples: Located in the village of Maluti, these are ancient temples made of terracotta and are historically & architecturally very significant.



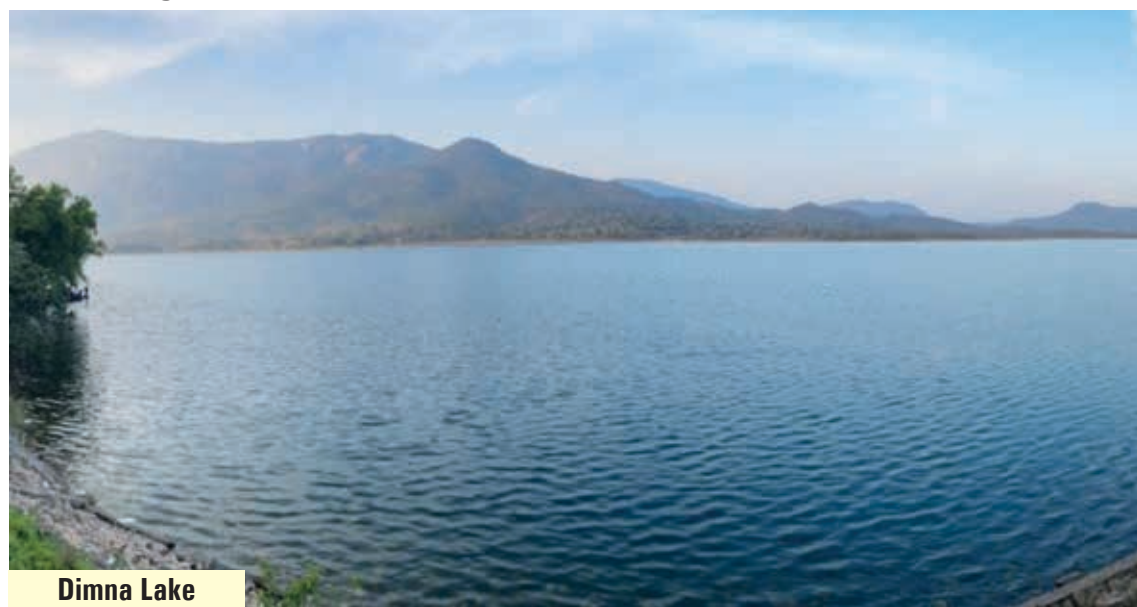


CIVIL COURT, EAST SINGHBHUM (JAMSHEDPUR)

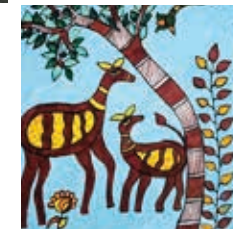
Jamshedpur (East Singhbhum District) also known as the Steel City of India was founded in 1907 by Jamshedji Tata and is named in his honour. Central to its identity is the Tata Steel Plant—Asia’s first integrated steel plant, symbolizing India’s industrial advancement.

JUDGESHIP

Following the creation of East Singhbhum district, the Judgeship of East Singhbhum was established on 1 July 1991, with its headquarters at Jamshedpur and a Sub-Divisional Court at Ghatshila. The District Court operates from its own 40-Court Building in Jamshedpur, inaugurated on 31 July 2004 by Hon’ble Justice P. K. Balasubramanyam, former Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court. The 20-Court Building at Ghatshila was inaugurated on 2 March 2011 by Hon’ble former Chief Justice Bhagwati Prasad.



Dimna Lake





Judicial Officers of East Singhbhum (Jamshedpur)

Siting (Left to Right) : Mrs. Manju Kumari, Mrs. Vaishali Shrivastav, Sri Anand Mani Tripathi, Sri Bimlesh Kumar Sahay, Sri Ajit Kumar Singh (Pr. Judge, Family Court), Sri Arvind Kumar Pandey (PDJ), Sri Kankan Pattedar, Sri Dhiraj Kumar, Sri Sachindra Gurua, Mrs. Namita Chandra

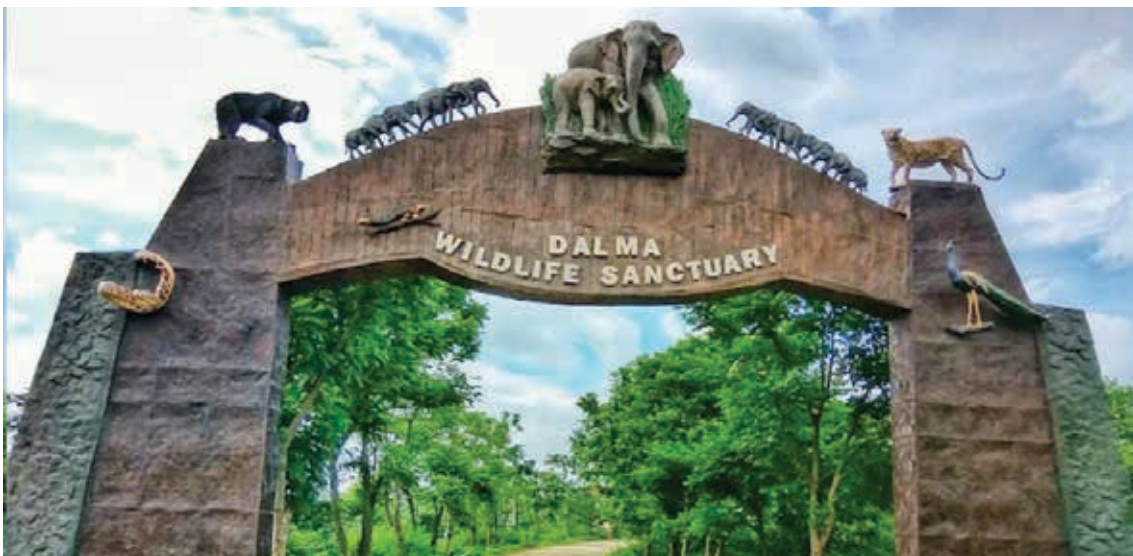
Second Row (Left to Right) : Mrs. Divya Aswani, Smt. Archana Mishra, Avanika Gautam, Smt. Puja Kumari Lal, Sunita Minz, Ritu Kujur Smt. Arpana

Third Row (Left to Right) : Sri Surendra Bedia, Sri Ajay Kumar Gudia, Kumar Sourabh Tripathi, Sri Ashok Kumar, Sri Vishwanath Oraon, Sri Abhishek Prasad, Sri Arvind Kumar, Sri Jitender Ram, Sri Vishal Gourav, Sri Dharmender Kumar

Fourth Row (Left to Right) : Sri Vikash Kumar Bhagat, Sri Adnan Aqueeb, Sri D.R. Tirkey, Sri Richesh Kumar, Sri Sidhant Tigga, Sri Dinesh Baori

PLACES OF INTEREST:

Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary: Located on Dalma Hills it is spread over about 193 sq. km across East Singhbhum and Seraikela-Kharsawan districts, extends from Chandil to nearly 40 km east.

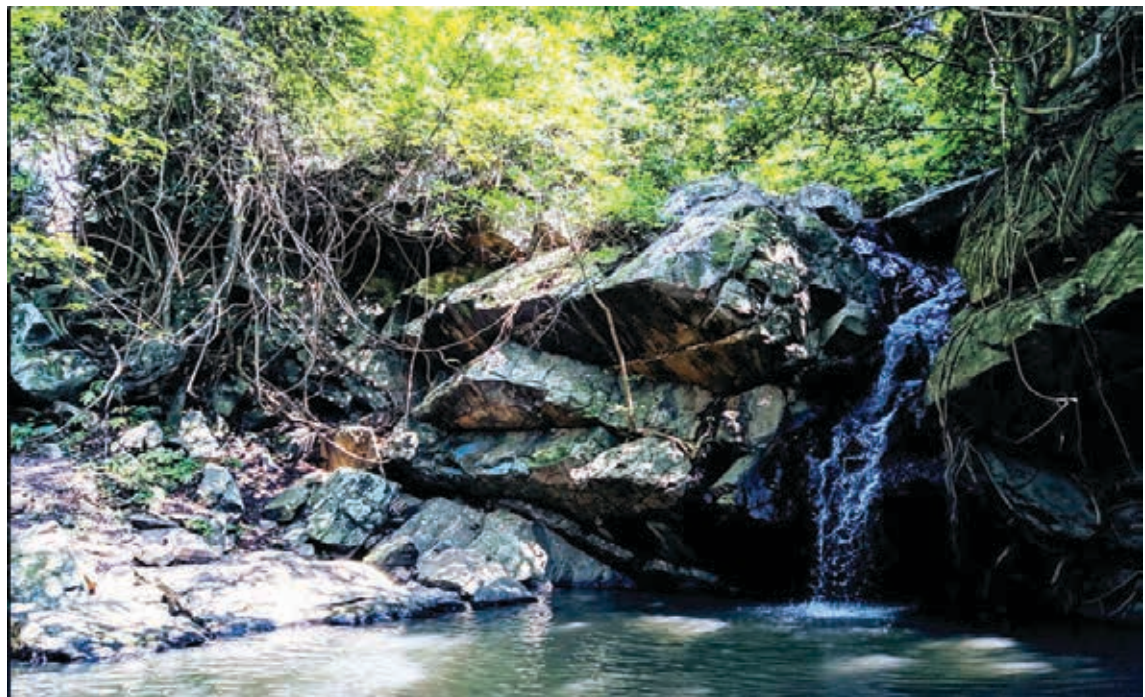




Jubilee Park: A vast urban park popular for picnics, outdoor activities, jogging, and cycling. Featuring fountains, a recreation center and a zoo, it was opened to the public in 1958 to mark the city's golden jubilee and was gifted to Jamshedpur by Tata Steel.



Dharagiri Waterfalls: Situated on a hilltop at a height of 20-25 feet is regarded as one of the highest waterfalls in the Asia continent.





CIVIL COURT, GARHWA

Garhwa district, created on 1 April 1991 after separating it from the Palamu district is bordered by the Son River, Palamau, Surguja, and Sonebhadra districts respectively.

JUDGESHIP

Garhwa Judgeship was established following the creation of Garhwa district on 1 April 1991. The Sub-Divisional Court at Nagar Untari, and the Sub-Divisional Legal Services Committee, were inaugurated in the year 2022 and 2024 respectively by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.V. Ramana, former Chief Justice of India.



Judicial Officers of Garhwa

Left to right (Sitting) : Sh. Ashutosh Kumar Pandey, Sh. Shivnath Tripathi, Sh. Dinesh Kumar, Sh. Manoj Prasad (PDJ), Sh. Manoj Chandra Jha (Pr. Judge, Family Court), Sh. Prabhat Kumar Sharma, Md. Abdul Naseer, Sh. Kumar Vipul

Left to right (Standing) : Sh. Rajendra Prasad, Sh. Narendra Kumar, Ms. Anulica Kumar, Ms. Nibha Ranjan Lakra, M. Monika Prasad, Sh. Abhinav Tripathi, Sh. Mahendra Pandit

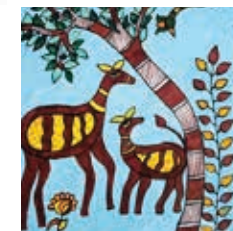




Left to right (Sitting) : Sh. Shailendra Kumar Napit, Sh. Kamlesh Behra, Sh. Sanjay Singh No.- 2, Sh. Manoj Kumar Tripathi, Sh. Rakesh Raushan, Sh. Alok Ojha

PLACES OF INTEREST

Sri Banshidhar Mandir, dedicated to Lord Krishna as Banshidhar houses a massive 1280 kg gold idol of Krishna, alongside Radha Rani's Asthadhatu idol. The temple was built around 200 years ago.





Garhdevi Mandir, one of the oldest temples in Garhwa, is dedicated to Goddess Garhdevi, the protector deity of the region, and was established by the royal family of Nagar Untari (Banshidhar Nagar). Originally a small shrine on a raised area, it was expanded over time.



Anraj Dam is a 1 km long, 28-meter high dam inaugurated by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1982. It irrigates fields across 30 villages.

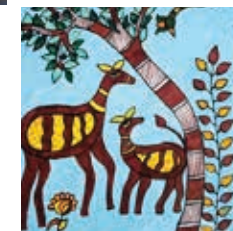




Carved out of Hazaribagh district in 1972 and nestled between the sacred Parasnath Hills and the rivers Usri and Barakar, Giridih is revered as the place where the 24th Tirthankara, Lord Mahavir, attained Kaivalya. It is also the karmabhoomi of Sir Jagdish Chandra Bose, inventor of the crescograph. Oscar-winning filmmaker Satyajit Ray spent part of his childhood here. Also, one of the original handwritten copies of the Indian Constitution in its Central Library. During World War II, a branch of the Indian Statistical Institute was established here on the advice of P.C. Mahalanobis who had authored several key works on its campus.

JUDGESHIP

Giridih's judicial history dates back to 1901 with the establishment of the Munsif Court under the jurisdiction of the Ranchi Judgeship. The Giridih Judgeship was formally inaugurated on 16 July 1977 by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Krishna Ballav Narayan Singh, former Chief Justice of the Patna High Court.





Judicial Officers of Giridih

First Row left to right:

Sri Vishal Kumar, Sri Amit Kumar, Sri Sanjiv Kumar Verma, Sri Ravi Shankar Mishra, Sri Debasis Mohapatra, Sri Dhananjay Kumar (Pr. Judge, Family Court), Sri Martand Pratap Mishra PDJ, Sri Kanwal Jeet Chopra, Sri Madhuresh Kumar Verma, Sri Rajesh Kumar Bagga, Sri Hariom Kumar, Ms Prity Kumari

Middle Row left to right :

Mrs Mosrat Ziya Tara, Mrs Reema Kumari, Ms Kavitanjali Toppo, Sri Safdar Ali Naiyar, Sri Sharat Nishikant Kujur, Sri Binod Kumar, Sri Sanjay Singh Yadav, Sri Mahaboob Alam, Sri Akshay Sharma, Md Danish Nawaz, Ms Minakshi Verma

Last Row left to right :

Ms Sushila Hansda, Mrs Babita Mittal, Mrs Santoshin i Murmu, Mrs Smiriti Tripathi, Mrs Ruby, Mrs Nikhat Ayesha, Mrs Shree Priya, Mrs Monica Srivastava

PLACES OF INTEREST:

The Parasnath Hills: Also known as Sammed Shikharji, the Parasnath Hills are Jainism's holiest pilgrimage site and also a sacred place for the Santhal community and is known as Marang Buru ("Great Mountain").





The Parasnath Temple: Located in the Parasnath Hills and also known as Sammed Shikhar, it is believed that 23rd of the Jain Tirthankaras Parswa Nath attained salvation here.



Khandoli Hill: It has a peculiar shape of a saddle consisting of massive boulders attached to it and is made up of Granitoid gneiss. The peak of the hill appears similar to a volcanic cone.





Godda district is also known by various names such as “Gateway to Jharkhand”, “Silk City” and “Rice Bowl of Jharkhand”. “Godda” is further believed to have derived its name from gudda, meaning “small hill” in the local dialect.

JUDGESHIP

The Civil Court at Godda was established after its separation from the Dumka Judgeship. The Court complex includes old & new court buildings and Fast Track Courts. Since 16 September 2014, the court has been fully computerized under the e-Courts project with centralized filing.



Judicial Officers of Godda

Left to right (Sitting): Mr. Piyush Srivastava, Mr. Niraj Kumar Vishwakarma, Mr. Kumar Pawan, Mr. Ramesh Kumar (Pr. Judge, Family Court), Mr. Anil Kumar Pandey (PDJ), Mr. Nirupam Kumar, Ms. Richa Srivastava

Left to right (Standing): Mr. Amit Bansal, Ms. Anupriya Sanga, Mr. Praveen Oraon, Mr. Remi Praphul Baa, Mr. Shashi Bhushan Sharma, Mr. Deepak Kumar, Mr. Satish Kumar Munda, Mr. Pratap Chandra, Mr. Raj Kalyan, Khalid Rasheed Ali Ahmed & Mr. Mukti Bhagat



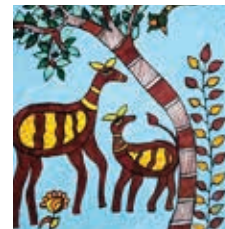
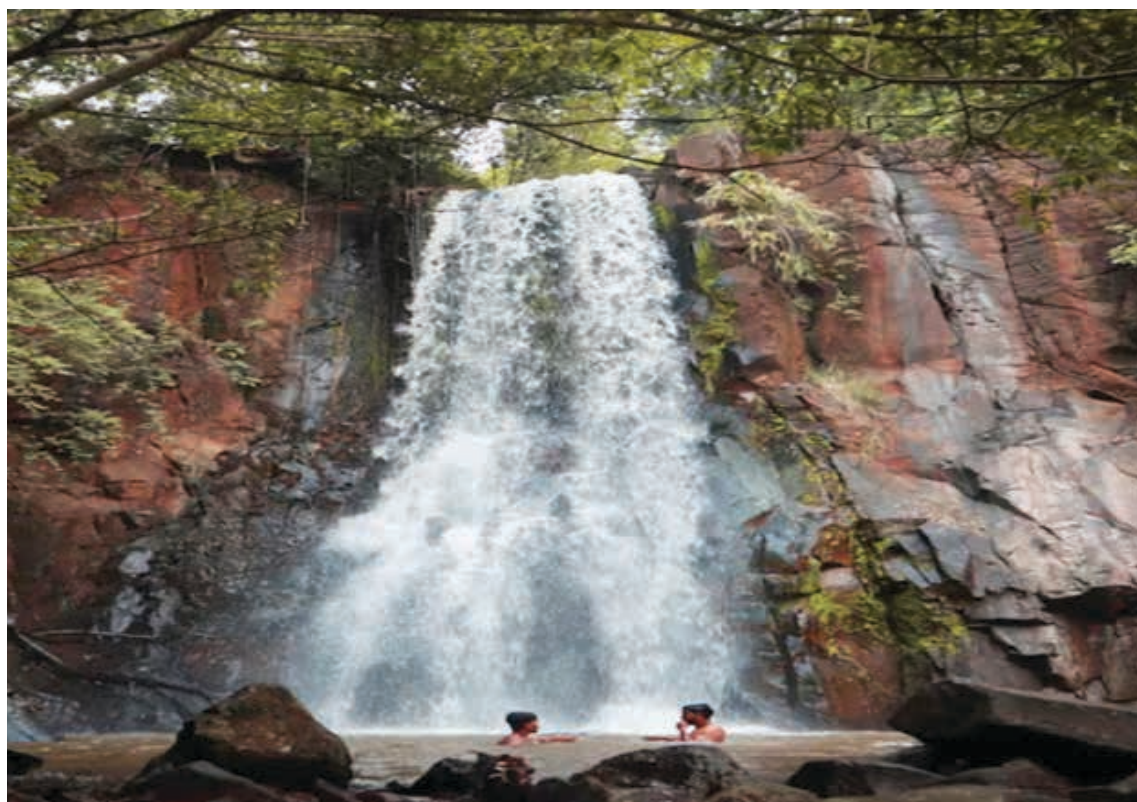


OUTSTANDING JUDICIAL ACHIEVEMENTS:

- ❖ Special (POCSO) Case No. 42/2024: The trial was concluded within a year of framing of charge resulting conviction of one accused and acquittal of remaining. In absence of eye witnesses, medical and forensic evidence such as DNA profiling and SFSL reports were relied upon. Compensation of ₹10,50,000 was also awarded to the mother of the victim under the Victim Compensation Scheme.
- ❖ Special (POCSO) Case No. 43/2020: Charges were framed within four months of the FIR, and the trial was concluded within a year. The sole convicts was punished for life imprisonment. In the absence of eyewitnesses, conviction was based on circumstantial evidence and the “last seen” theory, supported by sniffer dog assistance, medical reports, and DNA profiling were relied upon. Compensation of ₹8,00,000 was awarded to the victim’s father under the Victim Compensation Scheme.

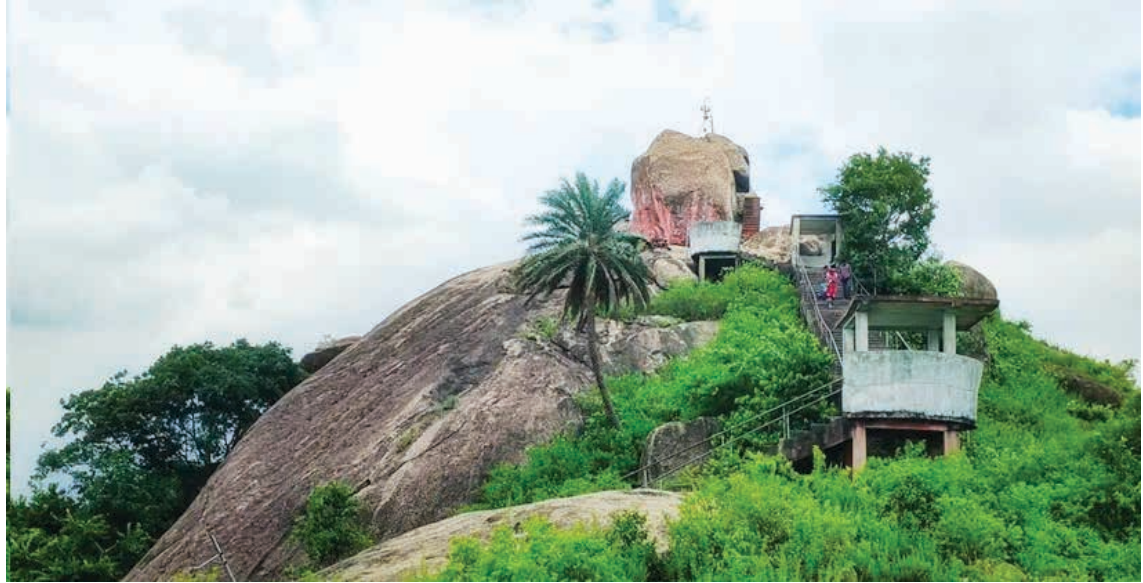
PLACE OF INTEREST

Damakol: The village of Damakol is located in Sundarpahari and is covered by forests. The valleys here simply captivate people.





Yogini Maa Mandir: A Shakti shrine situated atop a hill in Pathargama block. Mythology holds that the thigh of Goddess Sati fell here during Lord Shiva's Tandava.



Sunder Dam: Located on the Godda–Pakur State Highway in Boarijore block, Sunder Dam spans 1,470 acres on the Sunder River. Built between 1970 and 1978, it is the region's largest irrigation project.





Gumla District, carved out from Ranchi District in 1983 is believed to have derived its name from Gond (name of a tribe) and Mool (origin). Rich in tribal heritage, Gumla is also the birthplace of Param Vir Chakra awardee Lance Naik Albert Ekka.

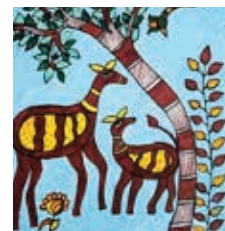
JUDGESHIP

The Gumla Judgeship, established on 16 May 1983 after separating from the Ranchi Judgeship. It currently functions from two buildings— the Main Building, and the Fast Track Courts Building. Every courtroom is equipped with Video Conferencing System. The complex features a Judges' Library, conference rooms, CCTV surveillance, kiosks, a facilitation centre, a medical dispensary, and a solar power grid.



Judicial Officers of Gumla

Left to right : Left to Right: Sri Ram Kumar Lal Gupta, Ms. Moumita Guin, Ms. Shweta Kumari, Sri Manoj Kumar Sharma, Sri Bhupesh Kumar, Sri Om Prakash (Pr. Judge, Family Court), Sri Dhruva Chandra Mishra (PDJ), Sri Prem Shankar, Sri Sanjeev Bhatia, Sri Sanjay Kumar Singh, Ms. Punam Kumari, Ms. Sweta Soni, Sri Prateek Raj





PLACES OF INTEREST:

Anjan Dham Temple: Located at up-hill of Village Anjan, and is regarded as the birthplace of Lord Hanuman.



Tanginath Dham: Dedicated to Lord Shiva and considered an abode for the Immortal Lord Parshu Ram.





Palkot Wildlife Sanctuary: Rich in Dry Deciduous Forests (Sal trees) & full of small hills and undulating terrain, it is traversed by rivers like Sankh, Banki, Painjra, Palamara and Torpa.



Navratangarh Fort: Locally known as Doyasagarh and built between 1636–1640 CE by King Durjan Shah, this five-storey fort now partially submerged with only four levels visible, is an iconic symbol of the medieval Nagvanshi dynasty. It has been a protected national heritage site under the Archaeological Survey of India since 2009.





CIVIL COURT, HAZARIBAGH

The name, Hazaribagh consists of two Persian words - *hazar* meaning “one thousand”, and *bagh* meaning “garden”. So, the literal meaning of term Hazaribagh is ‘a city of one thousand gardens’. It is one of the oldest districts of Jharkhand and hosts active several coalfields.

JUDGESHIP

The Hazaribagh Judgeship, among the oldest in the Chotanagpur was established during the British era as part of the Chotanagpur Commissionerary. Its main Civil Court, built in 1928, remains the judicial hub and preserves historic case records from the 19th century. Renowned for its intellectual tradition, the Hazaribagh Bar has produced distinguished jurists like Justice L. P. N. Shahdeo who was also appointed as a High Court Judge and Justice Tapen Sen as well.



Hazaribagh Jheel





Judicial Officers of Hazaribagh

Sitting (left to right) : Sri Rajiv Tripathi, Sri Purushottam Kumar Goswami, Smt. Kashika M. Prasad, Mrs. Kusum Kumari, Smt. Asha Devi Bhatt, Mrs. Sanjeeta Srivastava, Sri Dharmendra Kumar Singh, Sri Ranjeet Kumar (PDJ), Mr. Anuj Kumar (Pr. Judge, Family Court), Sri Prabhakar Singh, Sri Tarun Kumar, Sri Md. Asif Equbal, Sri Abhas Verma, Sri Alok Kumar, Ms Veena Kumari

Standing (left to right) : Sri Sumant Dixit, Sri Gaurav Khurana, Sri Hemant Kumar Singh, Sri Abhinaw Kumar, Sri Divyam Chaudhary, Sri Bikrant Ranjan, Ms. Kumari Nitika, Ms. Tanvee, Ms. Shradha Bhushan, Ms. Kriti Kumari Burnwal, Ms. Priya Kumari, Ms. Anushka Jain, Ms. Kaveri Kumari, Ms. Juhi Kumari, Sri Sushil Kumar Pingua, Sri Vivek Kumar, Sri Zaved Khan

OUTSTANDING JUDICIAL ACHIEVEMENTS:

The Beltu Massacre Case (State of Jharkhand v. Kailash Sao & Ors.): Originating from the 2001 MCC attack in Beltu village that claimed fourteen lives, the case concluded in 2013 with four convictions—two initially sentenced to death, later commuted to life imprisonment by the Jharkhand High Court. The judgment was noted for its application of the “rarest of rare” doctrine under Section 302 IPC.





PLACES OF INTEREST:

Hazaribagh Wildlife Sanctuary: Earlier belonging to the Royal family, on 7th August 1954 this area was accorded the status of Sanctuary Revenue Department of Government of Bihar.



Isko Rock Cave: A Mesolithic period archaeological site, features the Marwaduwar cave and the Isko Rock Shelter, renowned for its 10,000-year-old prehistoric rock art- pictographs and petroglyphs depicting humans, animals, celestial bodies, and geometric motifs, reflecting early human life and creativity.





CIVIL COURT, JAMTARA

Jamtara district was created after separating from Dumka on 26 April 2001. Historically the district has a rich tribal heritage and was the centre of the Santhal rebellions (1756–1760 and 1855–1858) led by Tilka Manjhi and Sido–Kanhua Murmu.

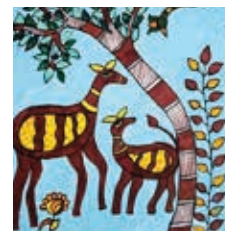
JUDGESHIP

The Jamtara Judgeship was inaugurated on 1 October 2001 by Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. J. Mukhopadhyaya. The new Civil Court building was inaugurated on 2 August 2009 by Hon'ble Justice Gyan Sudha Mishra, former Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court.



Judicial Officers of Jamtara

Order of Sitting: Shri Radha Krishan (PDJ) (Fourth from Left), Shri Rajesh Kumar (Pr. Judge, Family Court), Shri Santosh Kumar (Third from Left), Shri Ajai Kr Srivastava (Third from Right), Shri Nitish Neilesh Sanga (Second from Right), Shri Naeem Ansari (Second from Left), Shri Pawan Kumar (Extreme Right) and Shri Amit Alda (Extreme Left)





PLACES OF INTEREST:

LADHNA DAM: It offers a scenic mountain view best experienced by a wooden boat ride. The meandering mountains harmonize with the serene blue waters, while the gentle winter breeze enhances the tranquil atmosphere, making it a renowned picnic destination for nearby regions, including the adjoining Bengal district.





CIVIL COURT, KHUNTI

Khunti was established as a Sub Division of Ranchi Judgeship on 01.12.1905. Mr. Arthur Lov Day English was appointed as the first Divisional Officer having power of First-class Magistrate and Munsif. On 12.9.07 it was created as as the 23rd district of Jharkhand.

JUDGESHIP

Separation of Judicial and Executive function in Ranchi District was given effect to on 01.07.1964. An exclusive court of Munsif was created in the year 1974 and a separate court was established on 25-05-1987. Whereas the Sessions Court was established in the year 1993. The Judgeship was separated and carved out from Ranchi Judgeship on 10.05.2014.





Judicial Officers of Khunti

Left to Right :

Smt. Vidyawati Kumar, Sri Arjun Saw, Sri Rakesh Kumar Mishra, Sri Rasikesh Kumar (PDJ),
Smt. Prachi Mishra, Smt. Rajshree Aparna Kujur, Sri Amit Akash Sinha

UNIQUENESS OF KHUNTI JUDGESHIP

- ❖ It is India's first ever Solar enabled Judgeship which was inaugurated by Sri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 02.10.2015. The whole court is lit up by the solar energy.

Judicial Achievement:

- ❖ Kochang Gang-Rape case (2018)- Five women activists from an NGO were gang-raped at gunpoint in the Kochang (Arki Block) area of Khunti while performing a street play about human trafficking. The trial (ST Case No. - 199/18) was conducted for the offence punishable under Sections 341/342/323/354(B)/376(D)/363/365/110/114/120B I.P.C and Sections 67/67A IT Act within span of about 08 months. The Judgment was delivered on 17-05-2019 by the concerned court resulting into conviction of six under trial prisoners and they were awarded with punishment of life time imprisonment as well as fine. The case was tried and disposed of in a record time of 8 months & sentenced.



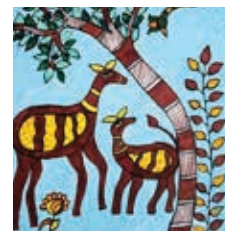


PLACES FOR INTEREST:

Dombari Buru: It is picturesque hills of the Dombari Buru hill in Khunti District stands as a poignant reminder of one of the bloodiest massacres in India's fight for freedom in which on January 9, 1899 the British forces surrounded and killed innocent people in Dombari Buru.



Ulihatu: Ulihatu, is the birth place of the "Dharti Aaba" of Jharkhand **Bhagwan Birsa Munda**. Bhagwan Birsa Munda initiated and led freedom fight in 1835 from this place.





Panchgagh Water Fall : Panchgagh is combination of five waterfalls. This waterfall is formed because of the breaking of the famous river called Banai into five streams which hits the rocks in a very turbulent manner creating a beautiful scene.



Perwaghagh Fall: A beautiful waterfall is known by the word “Perwa” denoting Pigeon and “ghagh” means home which depicts the “House of Pigeons” inside the waterfall. It is believed that these pigeons live inside the waterfall.





CIVIL COURT, KODERMA

Koderma was carved out from Hazaribagh district and established as a separate district on 10.04.1994. During 19th century, Koderma gained prominence as the *“Mica Capital of India.”*



Judicial Officers of Koderma

Left to Right :

Mr. Gautam Kumar, Ms. Pragya Bajpai, Mr. Manoranjan Kumar-III, Mr Amit Kumar Vaish,
Mr. Rakesh Chandra, Mr. Amitesh Lal (Pr. Judge, Family Court), Mr. Bal Krishan Tiwari (PDJ),
Mr. Ghulam Haidar, Mr. Sanjay Kumar Choudhary, Mithlesh Kumar,
Ms. Namita Minz, Miss. Jyotsna Pandey, Ms. Shivangi Priya



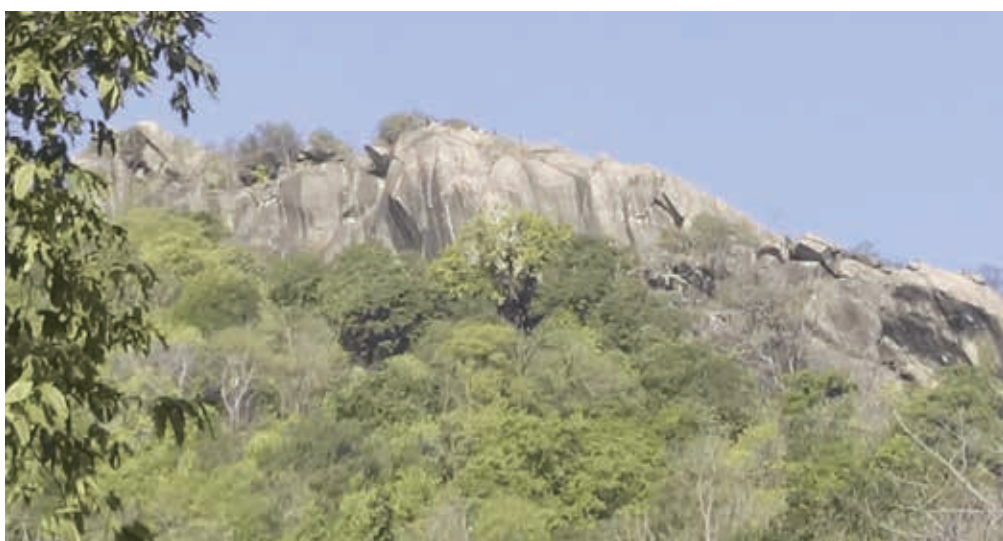


PLACES OF INTEREST:

Tilaiya Dam: Tilaiya Dam Located on the Barakar River in Koderma district of Jharkhand, was the first dam and power plant built by the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC).



Makamaro Hills : It is a religious site and natural attraction located near Dhab in the Koderma district of Jharkhand. This place is known for its scenic beauty and trekking opportunities. It is considered a holy place where the sage Parashurama supposedly killed his mother and brothers, and the area offers panoramic views from the summit.





The district of Latehar was carved out from the erstwhile Palamau district in the year 2001. The name of Latehar is named after the village of Latehar situated on Ranchi – Daltonganj road. It is dominated by tribal population.

JUDGESHIP

The Judgeship of Latehar was established on 29.09.2001, after the formation of the Latehar District on 04.04.2001. Earlier, Latehar was a part of Palamau District as Sub-division since 1924 and all the Judicial proceedings were taken care of by the Judgeship of Palamau at Daltonganj.



Judicial Officers of Latehar

Left to Right :

Sri Utkarsh Jain, Sri Shivam Chaurasia, Mrs. Meenakshi Mishra, Ms. Kumari Jiv,
Sri Sunil Dutta Dwivedi, Sri Syed Saleem Fatmi, Sri Manoj Kumar Singh, Sri Dinesh Kumar Mishra
Sri Sanjay Kumar Dubey, Sri Vikram Anand, Sri Pranav Kumar



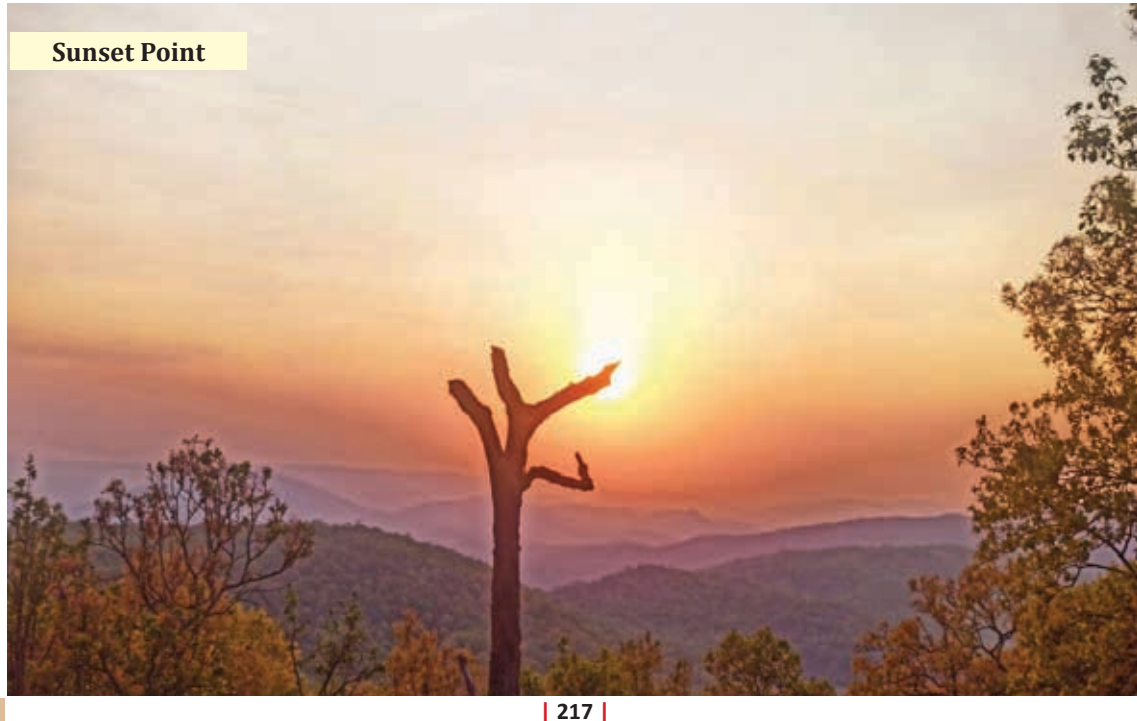


PLACES OF INTEREST:

Netarhat: Situated at a height of 1128 meters, the hill station is one of the highest points of the Chhotanagpur plateau. Netarhat is especially known for its stunning views of sunrise and sunset and is popularly known as the Queen of Chhotanagpur



Sunrise Point



Sunset Point





Magnolia Sunset Point: At a distance of 10 km from Netarhat, there is a confluence of two hearts which is known as Magnolia Point or Sunset Point. Legend says that the place is named after a daughter of an English officer who had fell in love with a shepherd.



Chalet House Netarhat: “Chalet” is a French word that means a wooden dwelling. This historical building of Netarhat is made up of logs of wood. It was built during the period of Sir Edward Gate, L.G of Bihar and Orissa in the early 20th Century. Initially, it was used as a summer exodus by British Officers.





Netarhat Residential School: This school was established in November 1954 by the state government on the lines of Gurukul.



Lodh Falls (Burha Ghagh) – The Majestic Voice of Nature: The Lodh Falls —also known as Burha Ghagh Waterfall—is one of the most magnificent waterfalls in eastern India. Cascading from a height of about 468 feet (142 meters), it is the tallest waterfall in Jharkhand.





Palamau forts : The Palamu Forts are two ruined forts located deep in the forests of Betla near Betla National Park. The original fort is situated in the plains and the other one is on the adjoining hills. The forts are attributed to the Vanvasi kings of Chero dynasty. The fort was constructed by Raja Medini Ray.



Betla National Park: It's the main tourism center of the Palamu Tiger Reserve. Chital, Deer and Bison, etc. can be seen grazing in the grasslands. A Baby Elephant, Rakhi who got separated from her herd is also a major attraction for tourists. The guided jeep safari organized in the Belta National Park to spot wildlife and birds is truly exciting.





CIVIL COURT, LOHARDAGA

The name “Lohardaga”— Lohar (ironmonger) and Daga (center)—means “center of iron mining.” The district was formed in 1983. In Jain texts there is reference to Lord Mahavir’s visit to Lore-a-Yadaga, which means ‘river of tears’ in Mundari. ‘*Ain-e-Akbari*’, the famous book on Akbar, also mentions a place called ‘Kismate Lohardaga’.

JUDGESHIP

The Lohardaga Judgeship, formally constituted on 25.06.2001 and was inaugurated by Hon’ble Justice Guru Sharan Sharma.



Judicial Officers of Lohardaga

Left to Right :

Sri Rajesh Kumar No. 2, Smt. Neerja Ashri, Smt. Premlata Tripathi (Pr. Judge, Family Court),
Sri Rajkamal Mishra (PDJ), Sri Shwaymbhu, Sri Krishna Kant Mishra,
Sri Rohit Kumar, Sri Amit Kumar Gupta





OUTSTANDING JUDICIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

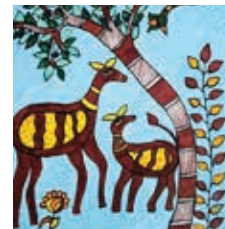
- ❖ ST 71/2009 Decided on 05.10.10: The convict was sentenced to death for charge of offence under Section 302 and 201 IPC. The sentence was upheld by the Hon'ble Court of Jharkhand. In appeal to the Hon'ble Supreme Court (Cr. Appeal 1868-1869/2012), the Apex Court has subsequently commuted the death sentence to 30 years' imprisonment.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Akhileshwar Dham: A renowned religious place with a temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. The annual Shravani Mela attracts a large number of devotees.



Ancient Shiv Temple, Khakparta: This temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. It is a popular spot known for its natural beauty and tranquil atmosphere.





Waterfall: It is a significant tourist destination and a popular picnic spot. The water cascades down in seven steps, creating a picturesque setting.



Bar Talab (Victoria Tank): A large historical pond and reportedly constructed by the British in honour of Queen Victoria.





CIVIL COURT, PAKUR

Pakur is located in the north eastern part of Santhal Pargana region of Jharkhand and became a district on 28.01.1994. Traditionally, Pakur has been the land of Santhals and Mal Paharia Adivasi people.

JUDGESHIP

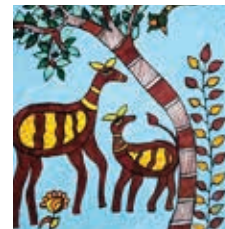
The Judgeship of Pakur was earlier functioning under the judgship of Sahibganj. On 01.05.1979, the Court of Subordinate Judge was established there. In 2001 Pakur Judgeship was separated from Sahibganj.



Judicial Officers of Pakur

Left to Right :

Mr. Sadish Ujwal Beck, Mr. Vijay Kumar Das, Mr. Sanjit Chandra
Mr. Rajnikant Pathak (Pr. Judge, Family Court), Mr. Shehsh Nath Singh (PDJ), Mr. Kumar Kranti Prasad,
Mr. Vishal Manjee and Mrs. Rupa Bandana Kiro





PLACES OF INTEREST

Martello Tower (1856): Built by Sri Martin, the 10th Sub-Divisional Officer of Pakur to commemorate the British–Santhal conflict. It offers panoramic views of Siddhu Kanhu Park and nearby hills.



Sidho Kanho Murmu Park - A beautifully maintained park in Pakur named after tribal freedom fighters Sidho and Kanho Murmu, offering a serene environment for recreation and remembrance.



CIVIL COURT, PALAMAU

Palamau district, with its headquarters at Daltonganj, is renowned for its historical and natural attractions. The administrative headquarter of Palamu is Daltonganj (Medininagar). Daltonganj got its name from Colonel Dalton, Commissioner of Chhotanagpur in 1861. The Daltonganj is also known as Medininagar. It derives from name of King Medini Rai of Chero dynasty. With passage of time, administrative reorganization led to the bifurcation of Palamau. Resultantly Garhwa and Latehar districts being carved out on 01.04.1991 and 04.04.2001, respectively.

JUDGESHIP

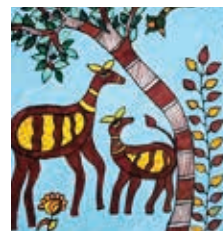
The Judgeship of Palamau was established on 18.07.1960. The new building of the Judgeship was inaugurated on 13.12.1990. Over the decades, the Judgeship has witnessed significant infrastructural growth, including modern Court buildings, Record rooms, Equipped with modern facilities.



Judicial Officers of Palamau

Sitting Left to Right : Ms. Ayesha Khan, Mrs. Sweta Dhingra, Sri Rajkumar Mishra, Sri Ram Sharma, (PDJ), Sri Sanjeev Kumar Das (Pr. Judge, Family Court), Sri Akhilesh Kumar, Aabhash Kumar, Prateek Chaturvedi

Standing Left to Right : Sri Kamal Prakash, Ms. Rashim Chandel, Mrs. Sushila Soreng, Sri Nirbhaya Prakash, Sri Nishikant, Sri Saurav Gautam, Mrs. Sonam Bisnoi, Sri Shambhu Mahto, Sri Manoranjan Kumar, Sri Rakesh Ranjan, Sri Pragyes Nigam, Sri Ravi Shankar Pandey





PLACES OF INTEREST

Kechki Sangam – It is confluence of Koel and Auranga river. It offers scenic beauty to nature lovers. Sunset and Sunrise also looks quite beautiful.



Palamu Fort – A historic fort showcasing medieval architecture and the region's heritage.





Ramgarh, established as an independent district in 2015, is part of Chhotanagpur region. It has rich deposits of coal. Ramgarh was deeply associated with India's freedom movement and the 53rd Session of the Indian National Congress was held at Ramgarh in 1940 which was presided over by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

JUDGESHIP

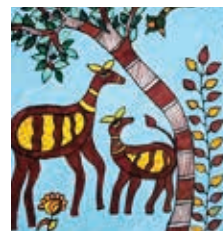
Ramgarh Judgeship was established as an independent District Court on 03.10.2015. It was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Virendra Singh, former Chief Justice, High Court of Jharkhand, Ranchi.



Judicial Officers of Ramgarh

Left to Right :

Sri Harshit Tiwari, Sri Alok Singh, Sri Shivendu Dwivedi, Sri Sandeep Kumar Bertam, Sri Rajeev Anand (Pr. Judge, Family Court), Sri Vishal Srivastava (PDJ I/c), Sri Manoj Ram, Sri Anil Kumar No. – III, Ms. Sanjibta Guin. Ms. Ayesha Singh Sardar





PLACES OF INTEREST

Maa Chhinnamastika (Rajrappa) Temple: Situated at the confluence of the Bhairavi and Damodar rivers. It is recognized as a historical place and as an important religious place for worshipping Devi Shakti.



RAJRAPPA WATERFALLS





Patratu Valley: The Renowned for its serpentine roads, lush green hills, Patratu Dam, and panoramic views which offers and ideal place for nature lovers and photographers.



Patratu Dam: This dam is built on Nalkari river. Water from the river Nalkarni and surrounding water falls are stored in this dam.





Ranchi, popularly known as a “City of Water Falls” is the Capital of Jharkhand and is divided into Ranchi and Bundu subdivisions. Ranchi’s history is linked to tribal culture, which probably derives its name from the Mundari word is derived from “archi” (bamboo forest) or “richi” (bird). Ranchi was the summer capital of Bihar until the formation of Jharkhand state on 15 November 2000.

JUDGESHIP

Ranchi, the former seat of the Circuit Bench of the Patna High Court and now the Hon’ble Jharkhand High Court, has a long and rich legal tradition with one of the oldest district judgeships in the region. A Munsif’s Court once functioned here, with Sub Judge powers exercised by the Principal Assistant to the Governor General’s Agent (later Deputy Commissioner), who also handled judicial and executive duties. In 1861, the office was redesignated as that of the Judicial Commissioner, empowered to hold sessions trials and hear civil appeals. Major W.H. Oakes was the first Judicial Commissioner, and in 1931, Mr. Rai Saheb S.P. Chatterji became the first Indian to hold the post.

Once the largest district in Chotanagpur, Ranchi Judgeship originally included Gumla, Lohardaga, Khunti, and Simdega, which later on became separate judgeships. Presently, a sub-divisional court and Gram Nyayalaya at Bundu are under development, and a Gram Nyayalaya was inaugurated at Mander on 14 July 2024.





Judicial Officers of Ranchi

Sitting Left to Right :

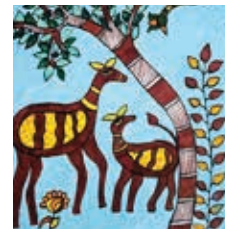
Sri Sanjeev Jha, Sri Kuldeep, Sri Yogesh Kumar, Sri Birendra Kumar Srivastava, Sri Arvind Kumar No. II, Sri Anand Prakash, Sri Yashwant Prakash, Sri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Sri Abhimanyu Kumar, Sri Amit Shekhar, Sri Anil Kumar Mishra-I (Judicial Commissioner), Sri Pawan Kumar No.-1 (Pr. Judge, Family Court), Sri Ramesh Chandra, Shri Shyam Nandan Tiwari, Sri Shailendra Kumar, Sri Akhilesh Kumar Tiwari, Sri Pawan Kumar, Sri Nishant Kumar, Sri Onkar Nath Choudhary, Sri Mithilesh Kumar Singh

Standing Left to Right :

Sri Bhupesh Chandra Samad, Sri Prashant Kumar Verma, Sri Abhinav, Sri Amit Gupta, Ms. Ila Kandpal, Ms. Khushboo Tyagi, Ms. Ritwika Singh, Ms. Shruti Soren, Smt. Archana Kumari, Ms. Rupam Smriti Topno, Ms. Kanchan Kumari, Ms. Ekta Saxena, Ms. Manya Tandon, Ms. Divya Raghav, Sri Sarthak Sharma, Sri Numan Khan Azam, Sri Ravi Narayan, Sri Manoj Kumar Indwar, Sri Ravi Kumar Bhaskar, Sri Manish Kumar Singh, Sri Gautam Gobinda, Sri Abhishek Srivastava, Sri Chandan Kumar Goswami, Sri Rajesh Ranjan Kumar, Sri Chandan, Sri Bijay Kumar Yadav

OUTSTANDING JUDICIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- ❖ R.C 20(A)/1996-AHD, Date of Filing of FIR: 27.03.1996, Date of Judgement-03.10.2023. The judgment was delivered by Shri Pravash Kumar Singh the then Special Judge IV CBI, Ranchi. The aforesaid, case was concluded by the trial court and four year and five-year imprisonment was given to the convict Jagernath Mishra (former Chief Minister, Bihar) and Lalu Prasad Yadav (former Chief Minister, Bihar) and others alongwith a fine of Rs. 1 lakh [Jagernath Mishra] and Rs 10 lakhs [Lalu Yadav] respectively in relation to offence u/s: 120 B of Indian Penal Code r/w 420,409,467,471 and 477A ,13(2) of the PC Act.
- ❖ ST 576/2019, The trial was concluding by Shri Anil Kumar Mishra No. 1 the then AJC XVI cum Special Judge CBI, Ranchi within two months and sixteen days and death sentence was given to the convicts for offence punishable under Sections 302, 376, 449 and 201 of the Indian Penal Code.





- ❖ POCSO Case No. 61/2017 : A minor girl was gang raped on 09.05.2017. The FIR was instituted followed by detailed investigation. The trial of this case was concluded within 14 months from the date of occurrence. The judgement was delivered on 13.07.2018 by Shri Diwakar Pandey the then Addl. Judicial Commissioner XVIII cum Special Judge POCSO, Ranchi. All the three convicts were found guilty for offence punishable under Section 376D IPC and Section 6 of POCSO Act and sentenced to undergo twenty-five years of imprisonment alongwith fine of Rs. 60,000/-. Based upon the facts of this case and court proceeding. A documentary film- **‘To Kill a Tiger’** which was nominated for the Academy Awards in the category of Best Documentary Feature Film and also won several awards such as Toronto International Film Festival, Palm Spring International Film Festival is based upon the case mentioned above. The documentary is available on Netflix OTT Platform.
- ❖ ST Case No. 668/2019 : A sensational gang rape was committed on 27.11.2019 at Ring Road, Ranchi. The charges were framed under Section 376D, 366, 323, 341, 342, 379, 411 and 120B of the Indian Penal Code. The trial was presided by **Sri Navnit Kumar, the then Judicial Commissioner, Ranchi (Later on elevated as Judge, High Court of Jharkhand)**. The trial was concluded within two months and convicts were sentenced to life imprisonment as well as fine.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Dassam Falls: Scenic waterfall cascading through rocky terrain and forested surroundings, popular with tourists and nature enthusiasts.

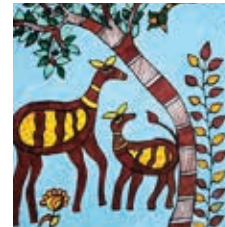




Hundru Falls: Famous “City of Waterfalls” attraction, offering picturesque views and picnic spots.



Jonha Falls: Natural waterfall set amidst lush forests, attracting visitors for sightseeing and photography.





Jagannath Temple, Ranchi: A colourful temple dedicated to Lord Jagannath, known for its annual Rath Yatra.



Bada Talab, Ranchi: Situated in the heart of Ranchi. Basically it was design to address water crisis of the town. Its extend to 52 acres and built by Colonel Onsley in 1842.





CIVIL COURT, SAHIBGANJ

Sahibganj is the eastern most part of Santhal Pargana division of Jharkhand. It is located within a lush green region of the Rajmahal Hills. Rajmahal, the Sub-Division town of Sahibganj district, was once the former capital of Bengal province during the Mughal period. During the British period, this district was considered as an important place of tribal revolts. The legendary brothers, Sidho and Kanhu, who led the first Santhal revolt in the 1855 were born in the Bhoganadih village of the district. Panchakathiya is a place where they were hanged by the British. These two places are very sacred place for local tribes. Fossil Park in Mandro Block is the World famous Geological site.

JUDGESHIP

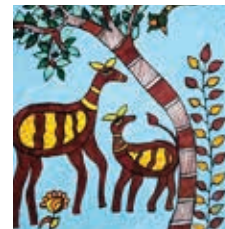
Sahibganj Judgeship was carved out of Dumka Judgeship on 1st May 1993. Earlier, this was a sub-divisional Court of Dumka Judgeship. The Sahibganj Judgeship included two sub-divisions namely Pakur and Rajmahal. In June 2001, Pakur Judgeship was separated from Sahibganj Judgeship.



Judicial Officers of Sahibganj

Left to Right :

Sri Vishwanath Bhagat, Sri Rahul Kumar, Sri Tushar Anand, Sri Sanjay Upadhyay (Pr. Judge, Family Court), Sri Akhil Kumar (PDJ), Sri Shekhar Kumar, Sri S.N. Lamy, Sri Sumit Verma, Sri Alok Marandi





Judicial Officers of Rajmahal

Left to Right :

Sri H.M. Waris, Mrs. Kamla Kumari, Ms. Neeti Kumar, Sri Sanjeev Kumar Singh
Sri Purnendu Sharan, Sri Ranjay Kumar

PLACES OF INTEREST

Rajmahal: Once capital of Bengal under Raja Man Singh in 1592. Rajmahal is known for monuments like Singhi Dalan, Akbari Masjid, Tombs of Maina-Bibi and Miran and Baradari.





Mangalhat: Home to the historic Jama Masjid and the Kanhaiyasthan Temple. This place is dedicated to Lord Krishna and is associated with Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's visit.



Udhwa Bird Sanctuary: This is Jharkhand's only Ramsar Site and is known for attracting a variety of migratory birds each winter.





CIVIL COURT, SERAIKELLA-KHARSAWAN

Seraikella Kharsawan district is citadel of world famous Chhau dance and due to its grace, unique charm and grandeur UNESCO has recognised the Chhau Dance of Seraikella as intangible cultural heritage of India.

Judgeship

The Judgeship of Seraikella-Kharsawan was carved out from the Judgeship of West Singhbhum in 2001 and the Sub-Divisional Civil Court at Chandil was inaugurated on 23-07-2022. *State of Seraikella vs. Union of India and Another* is the first case heard by the constitutional bench of Supreme Court which featured the former princely state of Seraikella.



Judicial Officers of Seraikella-Kharsawan

Sitting Left to Right : Mr. Deepak Malik, Mr. Chaudhary Ahsan Moiz, Mr. Ramashanker Singh (PDJ), Mr. Biresh Kumar (Pr. Judge, Family Court), Mr. Braj Kishore Pandey No. 2

Standing (Left to Right) : Mr. Ashish Agarwal, Mr. Tausif Meraj, Ms. Lucy Sosen Tigga, Ms. Anamika Kisku, Ms. Dhriti Dhairya





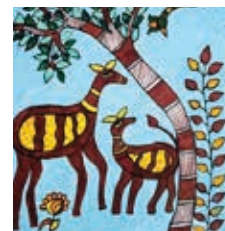
Judicial Officers of Sub-Divisional Court, Chandil

Left to Right :

Ravi Prakash Tiwari, Mr Sachindra Nath Sinha, Amit Khanna

PLACES OF INTEREST

Chandil Dam: Built over Subarnrekha river, it is one of the most visited tourist places of Jharkhand. The museum located near the Chandil Dam houses inscriptions on rocks which are 2,000 years old.





Dalma Top : Dalma Top is situated in Chandil Block. It is located at an altitude of 3000 feet above sea level. It's a very beautiful tourist place.





CIVIL COURT, SIMDEGA

Simdega, the erstwhile Kingdom of Kaisalpur-Birugarh Parganas, was ruled by the King Ganga Vamsi of the Gajapati Royal family for centuries. It is known as a cradle of Hockey in Jharkhand and has produced some eminent hockey players who have represented India in the Olympics and other International competitions.

ABOUT THE JUDGESHIP

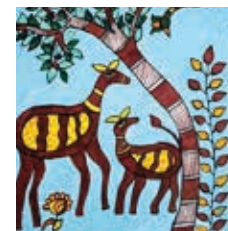
Simdega Judgeship was created on 01.10.2001. It is acquainted with Eight Court Rooms, Medical Dispensary, Bio Metric System and Solar Panel as well as Special Investigation Prosecution Unit.



Judicial Officers of Simdega

Left to Right :

Sri Subhash Bara, Smt. Mariam Hemrom, Sri Niranjan Singh,
Sri Rajeev Kumar Sinha (PDJ), Smt. Nitasha Barla, Smt. Sumi Bina Horo





PLACES OF INTEREST

Ram Rekha Dham: Located 26 km from Simdega, it is believed to be the place where Lord Rama, Mata Sita and Laxman stayed during exile.



Ketunga Dham: It is an archaeological site in Bano block and is linked to the Buddha period. It is believed to have been established by Emperor Ashoka after the Kalinga war.





CIVIL COURT, WEST SINGHBHUM (CHAIBASA)

The Judgeship of West Singhbhum is headquartered at Chaibasa. The district was formed after the bifurcation of old Singhbhum in 1990 and later reorganized in 2001. Its name is believed to have originated either from the Singh Rajas of Porahat or from 'Singbonga,' the supreme deity of the local tribal people.

JUDGESHIP

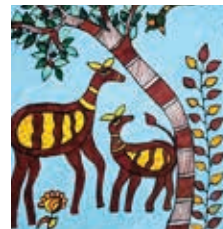
The Civil Court at Chaibasa was established in 1960 and was carved out of erstwhile Singhbhum and Manbhum District. To enhance judicial accessibility and expedite case disposal, a Sub-divisional Civil Court has been set up at Chakradharpur in July 2024 as well by Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.R. Sarangi, former Chief Justice, High Court of Jharkhand..



Judicial Officers of West Singhbhum (Chaibasa)

Left to Right :

Mr. Manjeet Kumar Sahu, Mr. Ravi Choudhary, Mr. Santosh Anand Prasad, Mr. Surya Bhushan Ojha (Pr. Judge, Family Court), Mr. Mohammad Shakir (PDJ), Mr. Vinod Kumar Singh, Mr. Achhat Srivastava, Mrs. Anjilina Neelam Marki, Mrs. Supriya Rani Tigga, Mrs. Pooja Pandey





Judicial Officers of Chakradharpur, West Singhbhum (Chaibasa)

Left to Right :

Ankit Kumar Singh, Mr. Ajay Kumar Singh, Mr. Krishna Lohara

PLACES OF INTEREST

Hirni Fall: A scenic waterfall located in the midst of dense forest.





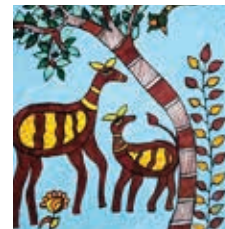
Saranda Forest- The largest Saal Forest in Asia, known as the land of 700 hills. It is a dense forest rich in bio-diversity, famous for its flora and fauna and serves as a major elephant habitat.



Tholkobad- It is scenically situated amid forests at an elevation of 1800 ft. and draws many visitors, particularly for games. The oldest Saal tree the “SARANDA QUEEN” exists here. The perimeter of the tree is 25 ft.



Noamundi: It has Tata Steel’s largest and oldest mine, which supplies iron ore for steel production.



NON-
JUDICIAL
OFFICERS
&
STAFFS





Joint Registrars



Deputy Registrar cum PPS with staff of Chief Justice Secretariat





Deputy Registrar, Protocol, Assistant Registrar, Protocol and Protocol Staffs



Assistant Registrars

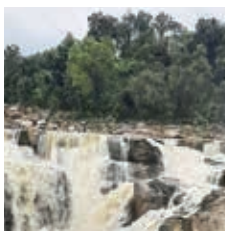




Court Manager



Senior Secretaries and Secretaries of Hon'ble Judges





Assistant Registrars cum Court Officers and Assistant Court Officers



Assistant Court Officers alongwith Court Office Staffs

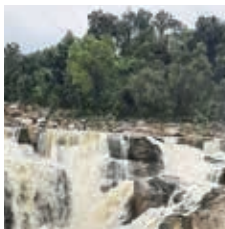




Court Masters



Senior Personal Assistants and Personal Assistants of Hon'ble Judges





Section Officers



Assistants

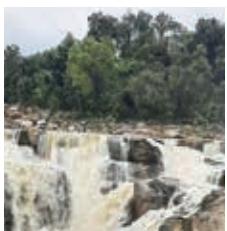




Officer & Staffs of Translation Section alongwith Assistant Librarian, Cashier and Typist



Technical Staffs CPC





Legal Assistants



Assistants





Jamadars



Staff Car Drivers





Peon & Other Class-IV Staffs



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