HIGH COURT AT ALLAHABAD

Through E-mail/Speed Post

From,

Manjeet Singh Sheoran, HJS
Registrar General,
High Court of Judicature at
Allahabad

To,

All the District and Sessions Judges/OSD
All the Principal Judges, Family Courts
All the Presiding Officers of Commercial Courts, MACTs & LARRAs
State of Uttar Pradesh

No. 12605 /Admin G-II/Allahabad Dated 27/09/2026

Sub: **Regarding compliance of Order dated 04.08.2026 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Suo Moto Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 3/2025, In Re: Victims of Digital Arrest Related to Forged Documents**

Madam/Sir,

Kindly take reference to the Court's earlier Letter No. **7795/Admin G-II dated 08.06.2026** regarding the implementation of the **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)** relating to the **National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP), Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System (CFCFRMS), custody and restoration of money, and grievance redressal**.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court, vide Order dated **04.08.2026**, passed in the above-cited matter, has issued various directions concerning coordinated measures for the **prevention of digital-arrest scams, grievance redressal, restoration of defrauded money, and institutional coordination**.

In this regard, I am directed by Hon'ble Court to send the **pdf** copy of aforesaid order dated 04.08.2026 passed by Hon'ble Suprme Court of India to your goodself for onward circulation of the same amongst all the Judicial Officers of your judgeship for information and necessary compliance.

With Regards

Encl:- As above

Yours faithfully,

27.9.26

Registrar General

ITEM NOS.30 + 17 COURT NO.1 SECTION X

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

SUO MOTO WRIT PETITION(CRIMINAL) No(s). 3/2025

IN RE: VICTIMS OF DIGITAL ARREST RELATED TO FORGED DOCUMENTS

(IA No. 142594/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 107054/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 41249/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 173572/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 135198/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/ DIRECTIONS, IA No. 166780/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS, IA No. 109672/2026 – CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION, IA No. 167919/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT, IA No. 285112/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 109669/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 28094/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 28103/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No. 67786/2026 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 166779/2026 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 285111/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 109667/2026 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 142272/2026 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 173932/2026 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 55879/2026 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 142251/2026 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 28085/2026 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 107049/2026 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 276131/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 15481/2026 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 41247/2026 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 272915/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 302659/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 167477/2026 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 301598/2025 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION, IA No. 28100/2026 – INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 65780/2026 – INTERVENTION/ IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 284590/2025 – INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 283419/2025 – INTERVENTION/ IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 173574/2026 – INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 135200/2026 – INTERVENTION/ IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 40968/2026 – INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 70182/2026 – INTERVENTION/ IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 124695/2026 – INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 121570/2026 – INTERVENTION/ IMPLEADMENT, IA No. 28102/2026 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON, IA No. 55884/2026 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON, IA No. 28093/2026 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON, IA No. 77502/2026 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES and IA No. 67787/2026 - PERMISSION TO FILE APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION)

WITH

W.P.(Crl.) No. 15/2026 (X)

SLP(Crl) No. 4942/2026 (II-A)
(IA No. 65641/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT and IA No. 65644/2026 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES)

SMW(Crl) No. 3/2026 (X)

WITH

ITEM NO. 17
Writ Petition(s)(Criminal) No(s). 276/2026

Date : 04-08-2026 These matters were called on for hearing today.

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

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UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

1. This Court has, through its previous orders dated 01.12.2025, 16.12.2025 and 09.02.2026, continuously issued *interim* directions to secure a coordinated response to the menace of digital-arrest scams in India. Those directions *inter alia* concern investigation(s) by the CBI, mule accounts, misuse of SIM cards and SIM boxes, cooperation by intermediaries, grievance redressal, restoration of defrauded money and institutional coordination.

2. Learned Attorney General for India has placed on record the Fourth Status Report dated 03.08.2026 filed by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), Ministry of Home Affairs. The Report incorporates the deliberations of the fourth and fifth meetings of the Inter-Departmental Committee held on 11.05.2026 and 14.07.2026 and the action taken by the concerned Ministries, regulators, investigating agencies, telecom service providers and intermediaries.

3. The Report preliminarily states that the number of complaints received on the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal pertaining to digital arrest scams have sharply declined from 1,23,672 in 2024 to 58,239 in 2025 and stood at 16,377 for the period ending 30.06.2026. The corresponding reported defrauded amounts have also substantially reduced. While this trend is certainly encouraging, there is no gainsaying that continued monitoring remains indispensable.

4. The Fourth Status Report, further records that the data-sharing MoU between the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub and I4C was executed on 11.05.2026, and the Grievance Redressal Mechanism Portal now covers 1,23,590 branches of 69 banks. Additionally, the Money Restoration Mechanism Portal has 57 participating banks and all 36 States and Union Territories, with restoration completed in 36,290 cases for an aggregate amount of Rs. 18.05 crores.

5. We are informed that the e-Zero FIR mechanism is operational in 19 States, while only 14 States have notified their State Cybercrime Coordination Centres. Similarly, the Telecommunications (Radio Equipment Possession Authorisation) Rules, 2025 have been notified, while the Telecommunications (User Identification) Rules, 2025 are at the final stage of notification.

6. So far as investigation by the CBI is concerned, the report revealed that the investigating agency has presently registered ten digital-arrest cases and several related cases. In one investigation, it identified 238 victims, 67 first-layer bank

accounts, transactions of approximately Rs. 80 crores, and conducted searches at 93 locations around 16 States. It is further stated that the Inter-Departmental Committee has requested the CBI to examine the feasibility of lowering the existing threshold of Rs. 10 crores for commencing investigation(s), and also to consider taking up cases involving the same organised network where the cumulative fraud amounts exceed the prescribed threshold.

7. We have further heard learned Attorney General, Ms. N.S. Nappinai, learned *Amicus Curiae*, and other learned counsel appearing for the parties and intervenors. While the progress reported at this juncture is appreciable, at the same time, the mechanisms already put in place require wide adoption, faster disposal and continued follow-up. We accordingly deem it appropriate to issue the following *interim* directions:

i. The RBI shall, within four weeks, formally adopt and circulate the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) prescribing the action to be taken by banks for placing temporary debit holds on amounts or accounts linked to money-mule activity and cyber-enabled fraud. A copy of the final SOP shall be furnished to I4C and to the Registrars General of all High Courts. The RBI is also directed to implement the delayed transaction safeguard/lagged credit mechanism and Customer Protection in Electronic Banking Transactions.

ii. All the States, Union Territories and law enforcement agencies are directed for expeditious adoption and operationalisation

of the two modules, namely, Grievance Redressal and Money Restoration Modules under the MHA's SOP concerning "NCRP-CFCFRMS, Custody and Restoration of Money and Grievance Redressal" dated 02.01.2026. They shall also take steps for public awareness of the two modules.

iii. The Registrars General of all High Courts shall bring the Grievance Redressal Mechanism to the notice of the Courts and other adjudicating authorities dealing with freezing of bank accounts in cyber-fraud cases. An aggrieved person may ordinarily be encouraged to avail that mechanism in the first instance, though it shall not be a bar to any constitutional, statutory or other legal remedy. The next status report shall apprise us about the State-wise and bank-wise statement of grievances registered and disposed of, restoration orders issued, restorations completed and amounts restored.

iv. The remaining States and the Union Territories are directed to take steps to notify and operationalise their State Cybercrime Coordination Centres within four weeks. They shall also take steps to adopt e-Zero FIR mechanism in consultation with I4C. The Ministry of Home Affairs shall provide the requisite assistance in this regard.

v. The Inter-Departmental Committee is directed to issue necessary directives, advisories and instructions to all States, Union Territories, Ministries and Government

Departments to undertake and promote awareness programmes about cyber-crimes, grievance redressal and money restoration modules, and allied concerns.

vi. The Inter-Departmental Committee is further directed to consult with the intermediaries and banks regarding the possible technological steps that may be undertaken to (i) prevent digital arrest, (ii) assist in recovering the defrauded amount, (iii) assist in the investigation of digital arrest, and (iv) cooperate and discharge their obligations under all relevant laws and provisions for due compliance of law.

vii. We also deem it appropriate to direct all the State Legal Service Authorities to immediately formulate schemes for public awareness of cyber-crimes, digital arrest scams, and cyber security, as well as developing schemes/policies for assistance in recovering any defrauded amount(s).

viii. The Inter-Departmental Committee is directed to discuss the proposal of a shared-liability and victim-compensation framework. The status report in this regard shall be submitted before the next date of hearing.

ix. All adjudicating authorities including RBI Ombudsman, Consumer Protection fora, jurisdictional Courts and law enforcement agencies are directed to ensure that the amounts recovered are

disbursed to the victims of digital arrest in an expeditious manner. A status report of the progress in this regard shall be filed before the next date of hearing.

x. The CBI, while continuing with the investigation in terms of the previous directions, is directed to examine the suggestions given in the status report filed by learned Attorney General for reduction of the present threshold of Rs. 10 crores and aggregation of cases involving the same organised network. A separate status report in this regard be filed before the next date of hearing.

xi. The proposal concerning a time-based "kill switch" for audio and video calls may be examined by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, the Department of Telecommunications and I4C in consultation with the affected intermediaries and let a brief note on its technical feasibility, efficacy, safeguards and alternatives to be placed on record before the next date of hearing.

xii. The Inter-Departmental Committee shall continue to coordinate implementation of the above measures and consult intermediaries and banks on technological steps for prevention, recovery and investigation of defrauded amounts through digital arrest scams. A fresh consolidated status report shall be filed in this regard with advance on the learned *Amicus Curiae*.

xiii. The Inter-Departmental Committee is further directed to consider all the consolidated suggestions/recommendations that have been made by the learned *Amicus Curiae*.

xiv. The Department of Telecommunications is directed to submit an Action Taken Report against the errant Telecom Service Providers/PoS agents which caused the digital arrest scams. A status report shall also respond on the suggestion for a unified dashboard to remove the menace of SIM Card abuse, including issuance of duplicate SIM cards or the misuse of Know Your Customer (KYC), processes for issuance of additional SIMs, etc.

8. Post these matters for further consideration on 16.09.2026.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI DILEEP KUMAR)
DY. REGISTRAR