



HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD

WRIT - C No. - 5503 of 2026

Faraha

.....Petitioner(s)

Versus

State Of U.P. And 2 Others

.....Respondent(s)

Counsel for Petitioner(s) : Ali Qambar Zaidi, Mohammad Danish,
Mohammad Iliyas
Counsel for Respondent(s) : C.S.C., Shreesh Srivastava

Court No. - 40

**HON'BLE SARAL SRIVASTAVA, J.
HON'BLE GARIMA PRASHAD, J.**

1. This Court on 18.02.2026 has passed the following order:-

"1. Petitioner claims to be an acid attack survivor and wants enhanced compensation as well as employment in a Government establishment.

2. Learned counsel appearing for the petitioner has placed reliance upon paragraph 20 of the recent judgement of Supreme Court in the matter of Parivartan Kendra v. Union of India and others in Writ Petition (Civil) No.867 of 2013 in which vide paragraph-20 and 21, it is observed :

"20. Having regard to the problems faced by the victims, this Court in the case of Laxmi v. Union of India & Ors by an order dated 18.07.2013, enhanced the compensation, stating that, "at least Rs.3 Lakhs must be paid to the victims of acid attacks by the concerned Government". Therefore, a minimum of Rs.3 Lakhs is to be awarded by the Government to each victim of acid attack. In the present case, a minimum amount of Rs. 6 Lakhs has to be awarded to the sisters.

21. *In peculiar facts of the case, we are of the view that victim Chanchal deserves to be awarded a compensation more than what has been prescribed by this Court in the Laxmi's case (supra). Though in this case we are not issuing any guidelines different from the guidelines issued in Laxmi's case, we should not forget that the younger sister was also injured by the acid attack. Although her degree of sufferance is not as that of the elder one, but she also requires treatment and rehabilitation. It is to be noted that this Court in Laxmi's case (supra) doesn't put a bar on the Govt. to award compensation limited to Rs.3 Lakhs. The State has the discretion to provide more compensation to the victim in the case of acid attack as per Laxmi's case guidelines. It is also to be noticed that this Court has not put any condition in Laxmi's case as to the degree of injuries which a victim has suffered due to acid attack. In the instant case, the victim's father has already spent more than Rs. 5 lakhs for the treatment of the victim. In consideration of the severity of the victim's injury, expenditure with regard to grafting and reconstruction surgery, physical and mental pain, etc., we are of the opinion that the victim (Chanchal) should be compensated to a tune of at least Rs. 10 Lakhs. Suffice it to say that the compensation must not only be awarded in terms of the physical injury, we have also to take note of victim's inability to lead a full life and to enjoy those amenities which is being robbed of her as a result of the acid attack. Therefore, this Court deems it proper to award a compensation of Rs. 10 lakhs and accordingly, we direct the concerned Government to compensate the victim Chanchal to a tune of Rs. 10 Lakhs, and in light of the Judgment given in Laxmi's case we direct the concerned State Government of Bihar to compensate the main victim's sister, Sonam to a tune of Rs. 3 Lakhs. Of the Total amount of Rs. 13 Lakhs, a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs shall be paid*

to the victim and her family within a period of one month and the remaining sum of Rs. 8 lakhs shall be paid to the victims within a period of three months from the date of this order. Furthermore, the State shall upon itself take full responsibility for the treatment and rehabilitation of the victims of acid attack as per the Guidelines provided in Laxmi's case, (2015) 5 SCALE 77, vide order dated 10.4.2015. "

3. We are also informed at the bar that Supreme Court has recently asked all the State Governments to frame guidelines for rehabilitation of acid attack survivors and has directed the State Governments to place policy before the Court.

4. It is contended on behalf of the petitioner that though the petitioner had earlier approached this Court vide Writ Petition No.29497 of 2024 in which he was directed to make a representation for enhancement of compensation over and above compensation of Rs.5 lakhs paid to the petitioner under the Victim Compensation Scheme and Rs.1 lakh from the Pradhanmantri National Relief Fund. The order of this Court dated 15.1.2025 passed in Writ Petition No.29497 of 2024 is reproduced herein under :

"1. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that this writ petition may be dismissed as withdrawn with liberty to approach the State Government.

2. In the light of above submission, this writ petition is dismissed as withdrawn with the liberty to approach the State Government for seeking enhancement of compensation keeping in view the expenditure incurred by the petitioner for treatment of acid attack

and the State Government is directed to look into said matter in a sympathetic manner and try to provide further compensation in accordance with the scheme available."

5. It is contended that though representation dated 26.7.2025 was made by the petitioner to Secretary of U.P. State Legal Services Authority but till date no decision has been taken upon the same. The record reveals that the petitioner was just 24 years of age when she became victim of acid attack and except for amount of compensation to the tune of Rs.6 lakhs which may be only a meagre amount as compared to the lifelong hardships and disability to have a married life, nothing more has been done by the State Government for rehabilitation of such victim despite judgements passed by the Supreme Court previously and asking the State Government to frame a comprehensive policy.

6. Let Principal Secretary Home, Government of U.P., Lucknow file a comprehensive affidavit in the matter bringing on record any such policy framed or even the guidelines have been framed and further spell out what actions have been taken to rehabilitate the petitioner as more than nine years have passed since the incident. The affidavit shall also disclose the steps which the State Government proposes to take in the above regard, if already not taken.

7. We make it clear, if proper affidavit is not filed as directed herein-above, the Court will be compelled to take serious view in the matter.

8. List on 12.3.2026."

2. Again, this Court on 16.04.2026 passed the following order:-

"1. In compliance of the order of this Court dated 18.2.2026, an affidavit has been filed by Sri Sandeep Kumar Singh, learned Additional Chief Standing Court for the State.

2. We have perused the said affidavit and we find that the affidavit is not proper and does not meet the queries of the Court raised by it in paragraph Nos.5 and 6 of the order dated 18.2.2026, which read as under:

"5. It is contended that though representation dated 26.7.2025 was made by the petitioner to Secretary of U.P. State Legal Services Authority but till date no decision has been taken upon the same. The record reveals that the petitioner was just 24 years of age when she became victim of acid attack and except for amount of compensation to the tune of Rs.6 lakhs which may be only a meagre amount as compared to the lifelong hardships and disability to have a married life, nothing more has been done by the State Government for rehabilitation of such victim despite judgements passed by the Supreme Court previously and asking the State Government to frame a comprehensive policy.

6. Let Principal Secretary Home, Government of U.P., Lucknow file a comprehensive affidavit in the matter bringing on record any such policy framed or even the guidelines have been framed and further spell out what actions have been taken to rehabilitate the petitioner as more than nine years have passed since the incident. The affidavit shall also disclose the steps which the State Government proposes to take in the above regard, if already not taken."

3. We are surprised to see that the State authorities are taking so lightly and casually the acid attack matters where survivor has to face lifelong hardship and future prospect of such survivor has diminished in all walks of life.

4. In such view of the fact, we expect the Principal Secretary (Home) to come out with a better affidavit meeting the queries raised in paragraph Nos.5 and 6 of the order dated 18.2.2026.

5. The matter is serious and requires urgent attention and, therefore, if we find that the affidavit is not proper or does not spell out the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate compensation and rehabilitation to the victim of acid attack, we will be constrained to summon Additional Chief Secretary, (Home), Government of U.P. to find out the solution as to how the victim of acid attack shall be adequately compensated and what means should be adopted to provide rehabilitation to such victim.

6. List as a first case on 30.4.2026."

3. When the matter was taken up on 30.04.2026, Sri Manish Goyal, learned Additional Advocate General, submitted that the Department of Home and the Department of Women and Child Welfare were actively considering formulation of a comprehensive policy for compensation, rehabilitation and long-term support of acid attack survivors in the State of Uttar Pradesh. On the said statement, time was prayed for to place before the Court a concrete policy framework addressing the concerns repeatedly noticed by this Court. Considering the seriousness of the issue and the assurance extended on behalf of the State, this Court granted two weeks' further time and directed the matter to be listed today i.e. on 14.05.2026.

4. Today, a personal affidavit of the Additional Chief Secretary (Home),

Government of U.P., Lucknow has been filed, which is taken on record.

5. Sri Manish Goyal, learned Additional Advocate General, has taken the Court through certain inter-departmental deliberations stated to have been undertaken between the concerned departments with regard to formulation of a policy for acid attack survivors.

6. We have carefully perused the affidavit as well as the deliberations placed before us. However, we find that despite repeated orders passed by this Court and despite the observations made by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Parivartan Kendra Vs. Union of India, (2016) 3 SCC 571*, no concrete policy framework appears to have been formulated by the State till date. The Hon'ble Supreme Court, while recognising the lifelong physical, psychological and social consequences suffered by acid attack survivors, had awarded compensation of Rs.10 lakhs to the victim in the year 2016, observing that compensation in such cases cannot be confined to a rigid or symbolic amount and must necessarily account for the nature of injuries suffered, continuing medical treatment, reconstructive procedures, social stigma, loss of normal life and long-term deprivation of dignity and opportunities.

7. The documents placed before the Court merely indicate broad discussions between departments without disclosing any identifiable policy structure, proposed measures, timelines, rehabilitation mechanism, or financial framework intended for acid attack survivors.

8. We are constrained to observe that the approach reflected from the affidavit and deliberations lacks the degree of seriousness which the issue demands. Acid attack survivors suffer irreversible physical, psychological, social and economic consequences throughout their lives. The issue cannot be treated merely as one of ex-gratia payment of a fixed amount under an existing compensation scheme. The obligation of the State extends far beyond disbursement of meagre compensation amounts and necessarily includes rehabilitation, medical support, reconstructive treatment,

psychological counselling, educational assistance, employment support and measures enabling such survivors to reintegrate into society with dignity.

9. In the present case itself, the petitioner, who was merely 24 years of age at the time of the incident, has been paid only Rs.6 lakhs in aggregate over the last several years. Except for such payment, nothing substantial has been brought on record to demonstrate any meaningful rehabilitative effort undertaken by the State despite the lapse of almost nine years from the date of the incident. This Court cannot ignore that acid attack survivors are often deprived not merely of physical well-being, but also of prospects of livelihood, social acceptance, marriage, emotional security and dignified participation in society.

10. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Parivartan Kendra (supra)*, while emphasizing the inadequacy of minimum compensation, had specifically observed that compensation to acid attack victims cannot be viewed narrowly in terms of immediate physical injury alone, but must account for lifelong suffering, continuing medical expenditure, inability to lead a full life and loss of basic amenities and dignity. The observations of the Hon'ble Supreme Court were made years ago, yet the affidavit filed before us does not indicate any substantial policy response undertaken by the State Government in furtherance thereof.

11. We may further observe that maintenance of law and order and protection of life and bodily integrity of citizens falls within the constitutional obligation of the State under List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Where such horrific offences occur resulting in permanent devastation of a citizen's life, the constitutional obligation of the State does not end with prosecution of the offender alone. The State is equally obliged to ensure meaningful rehabilitation and adequate restorative support so that victims of such crimes are able to live with dignity guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

12. Despite repeated opportunities granted by this Court and despite specific

queries raised in earlier orders, no satisfactory explanation has been furnished as to why a structured and comprehensive policy for acid attack survivors has not yet been framed by the State Government. The material placed before us does not disclose any concrete endeavour undertaken at the highest administrative level to address the issue in a time-bound and effective manner.

13. In the aforesaid circumstances, we are of the considered opinion that the matter requires direct deliberation with the senior-most authorities of the concerned departments so that the impediments, if any, in formulation of an effective policy may be identified and appropriate measures may be evolved without any further delay.

14. Accordingly, we summon the Principal Secretary (Home), Government of U.P., Lucknow and the Principal Secretary, Department of Women and Child Welfare, Government of U.P., Lucknow to remain present before this Court on the next date fixed along with complete instructions indicating:

- (i) the concrete policy framework proposed by the State for compensation, rehabilitation and long-term support of acid attack survivors;
- (ii) the mechanism proposed for medical treatment, reconstructive surgeries, counselling, education and employment assistance;
- (iii) the manner in which compensation amounts are proposed to be rationalised keeping in view the nature and extent of injuries and lifelong consequences suffered by victims; and

15. List this matter on **25.05.2026** for further hearing.

May 14, 2026
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(Garima Prashad,J.) (Saral Srivastava,J.)