

# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS



Open Access, Refereed Journal Multi-Disciplinary  
Peer Reviewed

[www.ijlra.com](http://www.ijlra.com)

## **DISCLAIMER**

No part of this publication may be reproduced or copied in any form by any means without prior written permission of Managing Editor of IJLRA. The views expressed in this publication are purely personal opinions of the authors and do not reflect the views of the Editorial Team of IJLRA.

Though every effort has been made to ensure that the information in Volume II Issue 7 is accurate and appropriately cited/referenced, neither the Editorial Board nor IJLRA shall be held liable or responsible in any manner whatsoever for any consequences for any action taken by anyone on the basis of information in the Journal.

Copyright © International Journal for Legal Research & Analysis

## **EDITORIALTEAM**

### **EDITORS**

#### **Dr. Samrat Datta**

*Dr. Samrat Datta Seedling School of Law and Governance, Jaipur National University, Jaipur. Dr. Samrat Datta is currently associated with Seedling School of Law and Governance, Jaipur National University, Jaipur. Dr. Datta has completed his graduation i.e., B.A.LL.B. from Law College Dehradun, Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar, Uttarakhand. He is an alumnus of KIIT University, Bhubaneswar where he pursued his post-graduation (LL.M.) in Criminal Law and subsequently completed his Ph.D. in Police Law and Information Technology from the Pacific Academy of Higher Education and Research University, Udaipur in 2020. His area of interest and research is Criminal and Police Law. Dr. Datta has a teaching experience of 7 years in various law schools across North India and has held administrative positions like Academic Coordinator, Centre Superintendent for Examinations, Deputy Controller of Examinations, Member of the Proctorial Board*



#### **Dr. Namita Jain**

*Head & Associate Professor*

*School of Law, JECRC University, Jaipur Ph.D. (Commercial Law) LL.M., UGC -NET Post Graduation Diploma in Taxation law and Practice, Bachelor of Commerce.*

*Teaching Experience: 12 years, AWARDS AND RECOGNITION of Dr. Namita Jain are - ICF Global Excellence Award 2020 in the category of educationalist by I Can Foundation, India. India Women Empowerment Award in the category of "Emerging Excellence in Academics by Prime Time & Utkrisht Bharat Foundation, New Delhi. (2020). Conferred in FL Book of Top 21 Record Holders in the category of education by Fashion Lifestyle Magazine, New Delhi. (2020). Certificate of Appreciation for organizing and managing the Professional Development Training Program on IPR in Collaboration with Trade Innovations Services, Jaipur on March 14th, 2019*



## Mrs.S.Kalpana

Assistant professor of Law

*Mrs.S.Kalpana, presently Assistant professor of Law, VelTech Rangarajan Dr.Sagunthala R & D Institute of Science and Technology, Avadi. Formerly Assistant professor of Law, Vels University in the year 2019 to 2020, Worked as Guest Faculty, Chennai Dr.Ambedkar Law College, Pudupakkam. Published one book. Published 8Articles in various reputed Law Journals. Conducted 1Moot court competition and participated in nearly 80 National and International seminars and webinars conducted on various subjects of Law. Did ML in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Administration. 10 paper presentations in various National and International seminars. Attended more than 10 FDP programs. Ph.D. in Law pursuing.*



## Avinash Kumar



*Avinash Kumar has completed his Ph.D. in International Investment Law from the Dept. of Law & Governance, Central University of South Bihar. His research work is on "International Investment Agreement and State's right to regulate Foreign Investment." He qualified UGC-NET and has been selected for the prestigious ICSSR Doctoral Fellowship. He is an alumnus of the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi. Formerly he has been elected as Students Union President of Law Centre-1, University of Delhi. Moreover, he completed his LL.M. from the University of Delhi (2014-16), dissertation on "Cross-border Merger & Acquisition"; LL.B. from the University of Delhi (2011-14), and B.A. (Hons.) from Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi. He has also obtained P.G. Diploma in IPR from the Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi. He has qualified UGC – NET examination and has been awarded ICSSR – Doctoral Fellowship. He has published six-plus articles and presented 9 plus papers in national and international seminars/conferences. He participated in several workshops on research methodology and teaching and learning.*

## **ABOUT US**

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH & ANALYSIS  
ISSN

2582-6433 is an Online Journal is Monthly, Peer Review, Academic Journal, Published online, that seeks to provide an interactive platform for the publication of Short Articles, Long Articles, Book Review, Case Comments, Research Papers, Essay in the field of Law & Multidisciplinary issue. Our aim is to upgrade the level of interaction and discourse about contemporary issues of law. We are eager to become a highly cited academic publication, through quality contributions from students, academics, professionals from the industry, the bar and the bench. INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH & ANALYSIS ISSN 2582-6433 welcomes contributions from all legal branches, as long as the work is original, unpublished and is in consonance with the submission guidelines.

# **ACID ATTACKS IN INDIA: A PERSISTENT THREAT TO HUMAN DIGNITY**

AUTHORED BY - SOMYA SINGH

## **ABSTRACT**

Acid attacks is one of the most heinous and grave forms of crime in the world, which is a gender-based violence targeting the women in the society. It does not harm the victims physically but mentally and socially as well. The victim was never able to cop up with this lifetime trauma and the taunts of society. Rather than hoping for justice, they only get delays, court dates, humiliation, and insults. Misogyny, Revenge, Greed, Insult, Lust, and lack of effective laws and their implementation are some of the reasons why these attacks are happening in the country. There are many stringent laws in India, but there is a lack of proper implementation of these laws and non-serious punishments. As long as there are no harsh steps taken and severe punishment is inflicted, these types of atrocious crimes will continue to exist in society. In order to remove acid attacks and provide justice and aid to the survivors, an approach that is deep-rooted and organizes various legal, social, and policy measures is undoubtedly required. It is like a termite that is making our criminal justice system shallow and untrustworthy.

This article explored the various nuances and aspects of the Crime of Acid Attack, its reasons, cases, the role of different statutes and legislations, and solutions. This paper has been going to deal with the historical aspect, legal Acts, problems, NCRB records, and conclusion.

**Keywords:** *Acid Attack, victims, physical, mental, criminal justice system, insults, Revenge*

## INTRODUCTION

*“Acid attacks leave victims scarred for life and are heinous crimes that must be condemned”<sup>1</sup>. –*

**Malala Yousafzai**

Acid Attack is not a novel concept for the world, its origin can be traced back to the medieval period when such attacks were used in the wartimes as powerful weapons. In the modern era, these were associated with vengeance, insult, gender-based violence, and honor-related crimes<sup>2</sup>.

If we talk about India, the very first case which reported at that time was of Laxmi, inspired by which movie “Chhapaak” was made. Before that the cases existed but it was not reported as they were afraid of their reputation and honor being tarnished and will be ostracized from society. Before this case, acid attacks were not specifically covered by the Indian Penal Code, and offenders used to get away easily under the general provisions of hurt or battery law.

The rise of acid violence stems from problems in society like patriarchy, dowry, and contempt for women. These were mostly carried out by some males in vengeance for unreciprocated love proposals or marriage offers. Men calling themselves ‘husbands’ would resort to vengeance by disfiguring the women who would not accept their marriage proposals.

If it is not dealt properly, slowly and gradually it will swallow our entire system and humanity and will make the environment unsafe and intolerable for the women. They will not be able to move freely and confidently and also not be able to face the world with that positivity and strength.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> **Desi Quotes**, Standing Against Acid Attacks: Powerful Quotes to Inspire Change, <https://www.desiquotes.com/standing-against-acid-attacks-powerful-quotes-to-inspire-change/> (last visited Mar. 26, 2025).

<sup>2</sup> Anubhav, *Acid Attack and Other Offences on Women in India: A Critical Analysis*, 9 Int’l J. Novel Rsch. & Dev. (IJNRD) 1 (2024), <https://ijnrd.org/viewpaperforall.php?paper=IJNRDTH00107>.

<sup>3</sup> **Indiatimes**, *How Do Acid Attacks Remain A Severe Concern In India?*, <https://www.indiatimes.com/explainers/news/how-do-acid-attacks-remain-a-severe-concern-in-india-587628.html> (last visited Mar. 26, 2025).

## REPORTS AND STATISTICAL DATA REGARDING ACID ATTACKS

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) claims there were around 14 acid attack cases reported each month throughout the country in 2021. In that year, out of the total reported cases, the defendant was convicted in three and acquitted in eleven. With a decrease in the last five years, the trend of acid attacks in India is still worrying. The recorded acid attack cases declined from 244 in 2017 to 176 in 2021. During the past five years, the states with the most acid attacks were West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. In regards to acid attacks, Delhi was leading in the metropolitan cities for having the highest rate of acid attacks over a period of five years. The prosecution rate was higher in metropolitan areas than the completed prosecutions in India. Over the last five years, there has been an increase in the prosecution of acid attacks on women and a decrease in the rate of prosecution dismissed by the courts. The rate of prosecution in India was better than in Indian metropolitan cities for the last five years.<sup>4</sup>

In India, the court acquitted the cases 24,9,10,4, & 10, and in metropolitan cities, the breakdown was 2,1,3,0,2 in the years of 2017,2018,2019,2020,2021, respectively. The 2022 report of the NCRB records Bengaluru as the leading city in the number of acid attack cases against women at 6, followed by Delhi and Ahmedabad at 6 and 5, respectively<sup>5</sup>.

Even with the restrictions placed on the sale of acid, its accessibility remains a major worry and a cause for these assaults to continue. Stringent measures, coupled with systematic survivor support, are still enforced.

## REASONS FOR THE OCCURENCE OF ACID ATTACKS

There are numerous reasons why such heinous crimes are becoming more prevalent in society. From love rejection to an inefficient and incapable system, it combines social, psychological, and legal factors.

The very first reason is the rejection of the love and marriage proposal, which in turn hurts the male ego, and they seek revenge for their ego satisfaction. They develop the mentality that if something doesn't happen according to them, they will destroy it. Sometimes, property,

---

<sup>4</sup> **National Crime Records Bureau** (India), Crime in India Report 2021, Ministry of Home Affairs, <https://ncrb.gov.in/en/crime-india> (last visited Mar. 26, 2025).

<sup>5</sup> *Bengaluru Tops in Acid Attacks Against Women in 2022: NCRB Data*, **Econ. Times** (Dec. 10, 2023), <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/bengaluru-tops-in-acid-attacks-against-women-in-2022-ncrb-data/articleshow/105875569.cms>.

business, and Domestic disputes also led to such attacks<sup>6</sup>.

These attacks were generally considered as gender- based and Honor-related as mainly women are the victims of such crimes, and men used to commit these to assert their clout over the women and to defy societal norms.

Acid is a very easily available commodity in the market, which makes the happens of crimes happen more possible, and there are no proper laws for regulating the sale of acids. Despite the Poison Act, 1919, the acid was sold without the proper verification of the person.

Weak enforcement and implementation of the laws, rules, and proper guidelines make the situation worse. Conviction rates for acid attacks are very low, and sometimes offenders get a punishment that is proportionally very low.

Lastly, inadequate awareness about the laws, victim rehabilitation facilities, and lack of financial support like payment of expensive medical bills, surgeries, and operations, etc., make it harder for victims to rebuild their lives.<sup>7</sup>

## CASE LAWS IN INDIA

### I. **Ravinder Singh vs State of Haryana<sup>8</sup>:**

In this case, the husband has an extra-marital affair and wants to divorce his wife but she was not ready for this mutual consent divorce. So, with the help of his cousin, the husband conspired the death of his wife by pouring acid in her mouth, and because of the extensive burning of her face and other parts, the victim died on the spot.

The case was before 2013, so the new legislation was not applied to it and as a result, the offender was prosecuted under section 302 of the IPC and not life imprisonment.

---

<sup>6</sup> *Acid Attacks, Stove Burning, Etc., Stop Violence Against Women*, [https://www.stopvaw.org/harmful\\_practices\\_acid\\_attacks\\_stove\\_burning](https://www.stopvaw.org/harmful_practices_acid_attacks_stove_burning) (last visited Apr. 13, 2025).

<sup>7</sup> **JLSR Journal**, *Causes of Acid Attacks on Women in India: An Analytical Study*, <https://www.jlsrjournal.in/causes-of-acid-attacks-on-women-in-india-an-analytical-study-with-special-reference-to-legal-protection-by-ambrish-sharma/> (last visited Mar. 26, 2025).

<sup>8</sup> 1975 AIR 856

**II. Gulab Saheblal Shaikh vs The State of Maharashtra<sup>9</sup>:**

In this case, the victim and her two-and-a-half baby girl were attacked by her brother-in-law with acid because she refused to provide the money for the maintenance of the second wife of her husband. As a result, the victim died because of burns but the baby girl survived although lost her eyesight.

The court ordered life imprisonment, with one-month rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1000 for the welfare of a child under Section 302 of IPC.

**III. Laxmi vs Union of India & Ors<sup>10</sup>:**

This was the landmark judgment that marked the tremendous changes in the field of the sale and purchase of acid to reduce acid attacks. Laxmi was 15 years of age when she was attacked by acid because she refused the marriage proposal. This attack leads to several injuries and permanent disfigurement. She filled the PIL in the Supreme Court seeking stricter regulations on acid sales and enhanced victim compensation.

As a result of this, The SC issued certain guidelines regarding the selling of acids such as, Acids cannot be sold to individuals under 18 years of age., Sellers must maintain records of acid sales, including the buyer's details and the quantity sold. Unregulated over-the-counter acid sales were prohibited, and State governments were directed to ensure a minimum compensation of ₹3 lakh to acid attack victims.

**IV. Parivartan Kendra & Anr vs U.O.I & Ors<sup>11</sup>:**

In 2012, acid was thrown by four people at two Dalit sisters from Bihar who were previously harassed and abused by them sexually and verbally as they slept leading to huge life-changing injuries. An NGO, Parivartan Kendra, put forth a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) under Article 32 of the Indian Constitution, demanding a better compensation scheme for victims of acid attacks as the medical treatment was delayed and due to high medical expenses, the family was in a debt trap.

The court held that the amount payable to victims of acid attack in a given state or union

---

<sup>9</sup> 1998BOMCR(CRI)

<sup>10</sup> AIR 2015 SC 3662

<sup>11</sup> (2016) 3 SCC 571

territory is set to a base figure of ₹3,00,000 and can go above this at the state's discretion. State-sponsored medical services for victims of crime include free medicaments, hospitalizations, and reconstructive surgery in public and private sanatoriums. Adequate social rehabilitation including counselling and vocational training is to be provided to victims for them to reintegrate into society.

#### **V. The State of Maharashtra vs Ankur Narayanlal Panwar<sup>12</sup>:**

In this case, an aspiring and ambitious nurse became the prey of an acid attack because she refused the marriage proposal as she wanted to advance her career. She suffered severe burns, damage to her respiratory system, and multiple organ failure as she drank a few drops of it by mistake resulting in her death.

The court sentenced the offender to the death penalty although it was commuted to life imprisonment by the High Court and also levied a fine of Rs 5000 which was provided to the family of the victim.

### **LEGAL FRAMEWORKS**

Acid Attacks have become a persistent issue for the time being. It is typically referred to as the crime of Acid Throwing, where it was mostly thrown on the face of the victim to burn it because it was usually not covered and the pain became more unbearable. Nitric acid and hydrochloric acid are some of the hazardous substances that are used in acid attacks. Acid is generally an element that is acidic in nature, has a burning eminence, and can have a calibre to deform or disfigure the body or face of the victim, causing permanent or partial injury.<sup>13</sup>

The legal framework for preventing acid attacks, or in other words, the evolution of the same, can be divided into two main parts:

#### **1. Pre-2013: Lack of Specific Laws**

In this period, there were no specific laws that dealt with acid attacks directly, and the offenders were prosecuted under sections like;

---

<sup>12</sup> 2019 (2) ABR(CRI) 753

<sup>13</sup> **Your Law Article**, Acid Attacks and Legal Framework in India, <https://www.yourlawarticle.com/post/acid-attacks-and-legal-framework-in-india> (last visited Mar. 26, 2025).

- **Section 320 IPC (Grievous Hurt)** – Listed injuries such as permanent disfigurement such as Emasculation, Permanent privation of the sight of either eye, Permanent privation of the hearing of either ear, Privation of any member or joint, Destruction or permanent impairing of the powers of any member or joint, Permanent disfiguration of the head or face, Fracture or dislocation of a bone or tooth, Any hurt which endangers life, or which causes the sufferer to be during the space of twenty days in severe bodily pain, or unable to follow his ordinary pursuits, which acid attacks often cause.
- **Section 326 IPC (Voluntarily Causing Grievous Hurt by Dangerous Weapons)** “Whoever, except in the case provided for by section 335, voluntarily causes grievous hurt by means of any instrument for shooting, stabbing or cutting, or any instrument which, used as a weapon of offence, is likely to cause death, or by means of fire or any heated substance, or by means of any poison or any corrosive substance, or by means of any explosive substance, or by means of any substance which it is deleterious to the human body to inhale, to swallow, or to receive into the blood, or by means of any animal, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine”. Used in some cases, but it was not a sufficient deterrent.
- **Section 307 IPC (Attempt to Murder)** – “Whoever does any act with such intention or knowledge, and under such circumstances that, if he by that act caused death, he would be guilty of murder, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine; and, if hurt is caused to any person by such act, the offender shall be liable either to imprisonment for life or to such punishment as is hereinbefore mentioned. Attempts by life convicts. When any person offending under this section is under sentence of imprisonment for life, he may, if hurt is caused, be punished with death”. If the attack was severe.
- **Section 302 IPC (Murder)** – “Whoever commits murder shall be punished with death, or imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to fine”. If the victim succumbed to injuries.

There were certain lacunas in these provisions as there were no strong definitions of what is acid attack and what will be included in this. Furthermore, there were no stringent and harsh punishments for it, and the offenders easily surpassed the punishment. Lastly, the provisions for victim compensation and medical treatment were missing from these provisions.

## 2. 2013: Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013<sup>14</sup>

On the recommendation of the Justice Verma Committee after the Nirbhaya case, specific laws were inserted in the IPC and CrPC to efficiently and effectively deal with such acid attacks. This led to the **Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013**, which introduced:

- **Section 326A IPC** (Punishment for Acid Attacks) – “Whoever causes permanent or partial damage or deformity to, or burns or maims or disfigures or disables, any part or parts of the body of a person or causes grievous hurt by throwing acid on or by administering acid to that person, or by using any other means, with the intention of causing or with knowledge that he is likely to cause such injury or hurt, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than ten years but which may extend to imprisonment for life, and with fine: Provided that such fine shall be just and reasonable to meet the medical expenses of the treatment of the victim: Provided further that any fine imposed under this section shall be paid to the victim.”
- **Section 326B IPC** (Attempt to Throw Acid) – “Whoever throws or attempts to throw acid on any person, or attempts to administer acid to any person, or attempts to use any other means, with the intention of causing permanent or partial damage or deformity or burn or maim or disfigure or disable any part or parts of the body of such person, or knowing that he is likely to cause such injury or hurt, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than five years but which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.”
- **Section 357B CrPC** (Introduced mandatory compensation for acid attack victims under Victim Compensation Schemes) – “The compensation payable by the State Government under section 357A shall be in addition to the payment of fine to the victim under section 326A or section 376D of the Indian Penal Code.”
- **Section 357C CrPC** (Free treatment for acid attack victims in government and private hospitals) – “All hospitals, public or private, whether run by the Central Government, the State Government, local bodies or any other person, shall immediately provide first-aid or medical treatment, free of cost, to the victims of any offense covered under section 326A, 376, 376A, 376B, 376C, 376D or section 376E of the Indian Penal Code, and shall immediately inform the police of such incident.”

<sup>14</sup> **National Portal of India**, Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, <https://www.india.gov.in/criminal-law-amendment-act-2013> (last visited Mar. 26, 2025).

The **Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013** has tried to overcome all the obstacles and hurdles imposed by the previous laws in making justice available to the victims. It provides unambiguous definitions, stringent punishments, compensation, and medical treatment provisions which makes it more approachable and justice-friendly.

## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ACID ATTACK LAWS IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

Below is a comparison of various countries regarding the rules, regulations, and other provisions for the Acid Attacks.

Country	Legal Definition	Relevant Laws & Provisions	Punishment	Compensation for Victims	Burden of Proof
<b>India</b>	Intentional act causing grievous hurt or disfigurement using acid	IPC Sections 326A & 326B (Amended in 2013)	10 years to life imprisonment + fine (326A) - 5-7 years imprisonment + fine (326B)	10 years to life imprisonment + fine (326A) - 5-7 years imprisonment + fine (326B)	On prosecution to prove intent & harm
<b>Bangladesh</b>	Intentional attack using acid to harm or disfigure	Acid Crime Control Act, 2002	Death penalty or life imprisonment (if it causes death) - 7-14 years imprisonment for non-lethal attacks	Government funds for medical treatment, rehabilitation, and legal aid	On prosecution, but fast-track courts aid victims
<b>Pakistan</b>	Intentional act causing permanent harm or death using acid	Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Act, 2011	14 years to life imprisonment - Fine up to Rs. 1 million	Punjab Women Protection Authority provides funds & medical assistance	On victim to prove attack in many cases

<b>United Kingdom</b>	Using acid as a weapon to cause bodily harm	Offences Against the Person Act, 1861 - Acid as an offensive weapon (2019 amendment)	Life imprisonment (if intent proven) - Up to 4 years for possession	No fixed compensation; victims can claim damages in civil courts	On prosecution, but with strict sentencing guidelines
<b>United States</b>	Considered assault, battery, or domestic violence, varies by state	No specific federal law; charged under state laws	Punishment varies: Several years to life imprisonment, depending on severity	Victim Assistance Programs in various states provide compensation	On prosecution, must prove intent <sup>15</sup>

### LEGAL SERVICES TO VICTIMS

The National Legal Services Authority was formed with the intent to provide efficient and appropriate assistance to the weaker and marginalized sections of society. Under this initiative, the Legal Services to Victims Acid Attack Scheme was launched in 2016. Its vital purposes are:

- To ensure that the victims will get adequate compensation, medical facilities, free legal services, and proper rehabilitation services.
- It also laid down the guidelines for the compensation to the victims of Acid attacks, which is 3 lakhs minimum and can go higher depending upon the severity of the attack. In addition to it extra funds for plastic surgery, medical expenses, and rehabilitation.
- Ensures speedy and expedient trial and fast disposal of the cases.
- This scheme also aims to organize training, awareness camps, medical tents, etc.
- It also conducts various research and prepares documents accordingly.
- It also scrutinizes various schemes and acts of the legislation.

<sup>15</sup> **International Journal of Research and Analytical Reviews**, Comparative Situation Analysis of Acid Attack Scenario in India, <https://ijrcs.org/wp-content/uploads/IJRCs201802060.pdf> (last visited Mar. 26, 2025).

Legal Services Clinics, which was another scheme set up to provide free and accessible legal services to victims. They are set up in law colleges, villages, jails, and legal aid centres to ensure justice for the acid attack survivors. It assists in filing FIRs, drafting petitions. It coordinates with hospitals and counselling centres to ensure victims receive free medical and psychological assistance, help with reconstructive surgery, and the rehabilitation phase of treatment for the affected individuals. It also provides aid in navigating government grants, employment, and educational funding. It plans and supervises legal awareness workshops on acid attack regulations and women's rights, along with other legal forms of assistance. They also appoint and assign paralegals to ensure more efficient rehabilitation facilities.<sup>16</sup>

## CONCLUSION

India continues to wrestle with acid attacks, which have starkly unequal impacts on women, who are often the victims of such violence. Survivors are left with life-altering consequences physically, mentally, and socially. Although there are legal provisions for acid attacks under Sections 326A and 326B of the IPC, prosecution remains low due to the rampant access to acid, slow legal action, and systemic gender discrimination. Government policies and judicial actions have seen some advances, but there is still a need for greater public education and support services for victims to eliminate acid violence. These types of offenses need multi-agency approaches involving police, policy makers, and the general public if the goal is to eliminate such extreme acts of violence while providing justice to those affected.

---

<sup>16</sup> **National Legal Services Authority** (India), Victim Compensation Scheme 2016, <https://nalsa.gov.in/> (last visited Mar. 26, 2025).