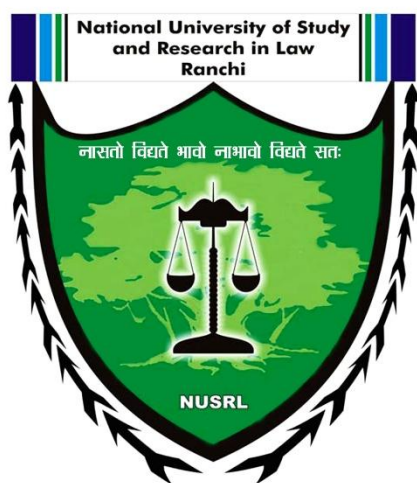


POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON BUDGET ALLOCATION
for
FINANCIAL YEAR 2025-26



PREPARED BY:

**KAUTILYA SOCIETY
NUSRL RANCHI**

RANCHI, JHARKHAND, INDIA

kautilyasociety@nusrlranchi.ac.in



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS	3
SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS	5
POLICY RECOMMENDATION 1: DRAFT ON A SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR JHARKHAND.....	6
THE NEED FOR SUCH A POLICY	7
SIMILAR PROJECTS.....	8
ACKNOWLEDGING SOCIO-ECONOMIC REALITIES AND STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR MARGINALIZED STUDENTS	9
POLICY RECOMMENDATION 2: INTERNSHIP SCHEME – ASPIRE SCHEME.....	10
OBJECTIVE	10
SIMILAR SCHEMES	10
BUDGET ESTIMATE.....	11
ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION	13
WHO WILL BENEFIT?.....	13
POLICY RECOMMENDATION 3: STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL EDUCATION FOR THE COMMON MASSES AMONG THE PEOPLE OF JHARKHAND (ANALYSIS FOR THE BUDGET 2024-25).....	15
WHAT ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES CAN BE TAKEN IN THE YEAR 2025-26	16
CONCLUSION	17



INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS

To
The Department of Finance
Government Of Jharkhand
1st Floor, Department Of Finance
Project Building, HFC Colony, Sector 3,
Dhurwa, Ranchi, Jharkhand 834006

Subject: SUBMISSION OF SUGGESTIONS FOR ABUA BUDGET 2025–2026

Respected stakeholders,

We write to you on behalf of the Kautilya Society, a collaboration between students of the National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi (NUSRL, Ranchi) and the Vidhi Center for Legal Policy, New Delhi. As researchers and advocates for public policy, we are honoured to present our policy recommendations for the financial year 2025–26, aligning with the objectives of the "Abua Budget" portal launched by the Jharkhand Government. This innovative initiative of inviting suggestions from citizens and experts is a commendable step toward fostering participatory governance and inclusive policy-making.

We have outlined three key recommendations that address critical areas for the state's growth. The three proposals align with the principle of participatory governance by prioritizing inclusivity, collaboration, and empowerment. Each recommendation reflects the core idea of the *Abua Budget* initiative: incorporating public voices and expert insights into policy-making for the betterment of Jharkhand:

1. **Scholarship for Meritorious Students:** A policy aimed at providing financial assistance to students who have completed their 10+2 education and successfully cleared national-level competitive exams, including JEE, NEET, and CLAT. This initiative will empower talented youth from diverse backgrounds to achieve their higher education aspirations.
2. **Aspire Internship Scheme:** This scheme proposes merit-based internships for college students across Jharkhand in various state departments, such as JHALSA, Rural



Development, and Tribal Welfare. The internships, paired with monthly stipends, will provide valuable exposure and skill development for young professionals.

3. **Strengthening Legal Education:** Recognizing the importance of access to justice, we recommend initiatives to enhance legal awareness among the masses and the introduction of clinical intensive courses to build legal capacity across communities.

These proposals embody the essence of the *Abua Budget* by ensuring that policy-making is a two-way street—where citizens are not just beneficiaries but active participants in shaping Jharkhand’s future.

Our recommendations are offered with the sincere hope of contributing to the government’s efforts to foster equitable growth, improve access to education and justice, and create opportunities for the people of Jharkhand. We believe that by focusing on areas such as financial support for students, skill-building through internships, and raising legal awareness, these suggestions could help address some of the gaps and challenges faced by our communities.

We humbly submit these proposals and remain available to provide further insights or clarifications if needed. It is our belief that collaborative efforts between the government, experts, and citizens will help shape a budget that truly reflects the aspirations and needs of the people. We look forward to supporting the state’s journey toward a more inclusive and prosperous future and ensuring that the *Abua Budget* becomes a platform for meaningful and transformative change.

Sincerely,

Kautilya Society,

National University of Study and Research in Law, Ranchi



SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The policy recommendations aim to tackle pressing challenges in Jharkhand's socio-economic and governance landscape by addressing three critical areas: improving access to education, fostering skill-building opportunities for young professionals, and strengthening legal literacy across communities. These areas represent key pillars of sustainable development and social empowerment, crucial for ensuring that the state's demographic dividend is effectively harnessed. By addressing the systemic barriers to education, employment, and legal awareness, the recommendations aim to empower individuals and communities to participate actively in Jharkhand's economic growth and democratic processes. These efforts are expected to bridge the existing gaps in equality, foster resilience among underserved populations, and create a framework for inclusive policy implementation that can be sustained over the long term. Furthermore, the proposals reflect a forward-looking approach that not only addresses immediate needs but also lays the foundation for a more prosperous and equitable future for the state.

Policy Recommendation 1: Scholarship Scheme

This policy aims to provide financial assistance to meritorious students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds who have cleared national-level competitive exams such as JEE, NEET, and CLAT. The goal is to ensure equitable access to higher education and alleviate the economic burden on families, especially for professional courses with high tuition costs. *The scheme suggests increasing the income eligibility limit to ₹8–10 lakh per annum for inclusivity.*

Policy Recommendation 2: Paid Internship Scheme

Proposed as a merit-based internship program open to students in private and public colleges, this scheme would offer stipends to interns working in various state departments. It aims to provide practical work experience, financial support, and professional networking opportunities. *A budget estimate proposes allocating 0.5% of department budgets for stipends, with internships distributed through a government-run platform.*

Policy Recommendation 3: Strengthening the Legal Education in Jharkhand

This recommendation focuses on improving legal awareness and education among the public through initiatives like Lok Adalat sessions and Clinical Intensive Courses for law students. These



programs aim to enhance legal literacy, promote alternative dispute-resolution methods, and provide practical training to aspiring legal professionals.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION 1: DRAFT ON A SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR JHARKHAND

This policy aims to provide financial assistance and foster educational opportunities for students who have successfully completed their 10+2 education and have appeared for and cleared major competitive exams in the country, such as JEE, NEET, and **CLAT**, among others. By targeting this group, the policy ensures that meritorious students from diverse backgrounds are supported in pursuing their higher education goals.

[ALL DATA BELOW IS TAKEN FROM THE AISHE REPORT 2021-2022]

Enrolment Data ([SOURCE](#))

As of the latest statistics:

- **Total Number of Enrolments in Higher Education:** 8,79,965
- **Undergraduate Enrolment:** 7,10,156

This data reflects the growing demand for higher education and the increasing number of students qualifying through competitive examinations.

Representation of Social Groups ([SOURCE](#))

The policy recognizes that these students are distributed across various social groups, including but not limited to:

- 82,756 students belonging to the SC category
- 168329 students belonging to the ST category
- 360050 students belonging to the OBC category
- 9202 from EWS and 1175 from PWD category.

This ensures inclusivity and targeted assistance for under-represented sections of society, fostering equitable access to higher education.



The Need For Such A policy

By focusing on students who have cleared national-level competitive exams, the policy incentivizes academic excellence and ensures that financial constraints do not hinder the aspirations of talented individuals. Furthermore, addressing the specific needs of various social groups aligns with the government's commitment to **inclusive growth and development in education**.

Access to quality education is a cornerstone of personal growth and national development. However, the rising cost of higher education in India has become a significant barrier for many students, particularly those from economically weaker sections of society. With the increasing privatization of education and inflation, the fees for undergraduate and postgraduate courses—especially professional ones—have escalated to levels that are often unaffordable for an average Indian family.

(i) Economic Burden on Families

Despite various government schemes aimed at financial aid, the reality for many parents is stark. They often have to resort to taking heavy education loans to fund their children's dreams of becoming engineers, doctors, lawyers, or other professionals. These loans, coupled with interest rates, can become a long-term financial burden on families, sometimes spanning decades. The repayment often hinders the financial stability of not only the parents but also the students themselves, who begin their careers with the pressure of repaying debt.

(ii) Rising Costs of Education

Professional courses such as **engineering (JEE), medical (NEET), and law (CLAT)** have tuition fees that are increasing annually. For instance:

- Private medical colleges can charge fees upwards of ₹10–₹15 lakh annually.
- Engineering colleges, even in the government sector, have seen a rise in semester fees and other associated costs like hostel and laboratory fees.
- Law colleges, particularly NLUs (National Law Universities), have fee structures ranging from ₹2–₹4 lakh per annum.

For families with multiple children or those in lower income brackets, these costs are often insurmountable.



(iii) Ensuring Equitable Access

This policy is crucial to bridging the gap in access to higher education, especially for students who, despite their academic achievements, face socio-economic barriers. By targeting students who have cracked major competitive exams like **JEE, NEET, and CLAT**, the policy aims to:

1. **Reward merit** and motivate students to excel in their academic pursuits.
2. **Reduce the financial burden** on families by providing scholarships, grants, or subsidized fees.
3. **Improve enrolment rates** in higher education, particularly for but not limited to under-represented social groups.

Similar Projects

A recent initiative by the Madhya Pradesh government provides valuable insights for shaping a similar policy. The program focuses on offering financial assistance to meritorious students to help them pursue higher education without being hindered by financial constraints. With an emphasis on students gaining admission to prestigious institutions like IITs, AIIMS, NLUs, and other recognized universities, this initiative reflects the state's commitment to promoting academic excellence.

In the fiscal year 2024-25, a budget of ₹300 crore was allocated for this program, signifying the importance placed on reducing the financial burden on students and their families. Madhya Pradesh, like Jharkhand, shares comparable socio-economic demographics, making this approach particularly relevant. Such a policy ensures equitable access to education, alleviates the economic challenges associated with rising education costs, and encourages students to aim for excellence by targeting competitive institutions. ([Source](#))

The MMVY has included an income limit of 6 lakh Rupees per annum to be eligible for the scheme but to ensure broader inclusivity in the state of Jharkhand, **there is a need to amend this limit and increase it to ₹8–10 lakh per annum. Such an adjustment would align the policy with current economic realities and allow more middle-income families to benefit.**



Acknowledging Socio-Economic Realities and Strengthening Support for Marginalized Students

Jharkhand's unique socio-economic structure, characterized by a significant population of **Scheduled Tribes (STs), Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Extremely Backward Classes (EBC)**, has witnessed strides in integrating these communities into mainstream society due to persistent efforts by both state and central governments. However, there remains a pressing need to enhance their access to quality education, particularly in higher learning institutions.

To help with this endeavour, we propose **a targeted initiative to provide additional financial assistance** for hostel and residential fees for students from these communities. This measure aims to alleviate the economic burden on families and ensure that students from marginalized backgrounds can pursue their academic goals without undue financial stress.

For colleges with existing hostel and mess facilities, such as the National University of Study and Research in Law (NUSRL) Ranchi, Birla Institute of Technology (BIT) Mesra, and others, the policy would ensure that the associated costs are covered by the state government. **This comprehensive support would include hostel accommodations and mess expenses, enabling students to fully immerse themselves in academic life.**

For institutions that do not have on-campus residential facilities, a reimbursement scheme should be implemented. Under this scheme, students originating from areas outside the city where their college is located would be eligible for **partial reimbursement of their expenses incurred while living in private accommodations or paying guest (PG) facilities**. This would particularly benefit students studying in urban centres but residing far from their families.

Such measures are essential to creating an equitable educational landscape in Jharkhand. **By addressing the specific needs of ST, SC and EBC students, this initiative reinforces the state government's commitment to fostering inclusivity, reducing disparities, and empowering underserved communities to achieve their full potential. The proposed financial support for residential costs aligns with the broader vision of ensuring that higher education becomes accessible and affordable for all, paving the way for a stronger, more equitable society.**



POLICY RECOMMENDATION 2: INTERNSHIP SCHEME – ASPIRE SCHEME

The proposed Aspire Scheme or Internship Scheme, is aimed at all college students, whether private or public and is to be granted on a merit basis. These internships will be at the various state Departments such as JHALSA, Department of Rural Development, Department of Tribal Welfare etc. catering to all disciplines. The interns would be granted a monthly stipend for the duration of their internship.

For this, the government could either launch a specific portal dedicated to allotting internships in different departments or each department would have a dedicated page for internship opportunities at the place. Such as the [National Career Service \(NCS\)](#) portal launched by the Center wherein individuals can register themselves, fill all criteria and, jobs would be recommended based on their preference.

Objective

- To gain hands-on experience working in a public department
- To help build freshers a worthy network connection
- Monthly stipends would provide financial support to students, especially the underprivileged and economically backward class.

Similar Schemes

- 1) [Prime Minister Internship Scheme](#) (2024-29) - The scheme, announced in the 2024-25 Union Budget, aims to provide 1 crore internships over five years. It began with a pilot project for 2024-25, targeting 1.25 lakh internships across 24 sectors, such as oil, energy, hospitality, automotive, and banking. It is open to Indian nationals aged 21–24 years who are unemployed or enrolled in distance learning programs. But excludes those enrolled in prestigious universities like IITs, IIMs, NLUs, IIITs etc and students with family income above 8 lakh p.a. Additionally the interns would be granted a monthly stipend of ₹5,000/month, with ₹500 contributed by partner companies and ₹4,500 provided by the government via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), along with a one-time grant of ₹6,000 upon joining. The



interns will also be given insurance coverage under schemes like PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and PM Suraksha Bima Yojana.

- 2) Internship Scheme 2023 by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade ([DPIIT](#)) – This internship launched in 2023 was open to UG/PG students from different domains like Engineering, Management, Law, Economics, Finance, Computers and Management. Only 20 seats were available for the applicants in each cycle of June-August and November-January. The internship offered a monthly stipend of Rs.10,000.
- 3) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna – It is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) implemented by the National Skill Development Corporation. The objective of this Skill Certification Scheme is to enable Indian youth to enrol in industry-relevant skill training that will help them secure a better livelihood. From FY17 to FY24, Jharkhand released a total of Rs.136.71 crore to fund the scheme. So far 194 training centres have been established across the state.

Budget Estimate

Previously, the state had allocated funds for schemes aimed at strengthening the skill development of the youth. The following is a list of schemes for which demands for grants were submitted to the state in FY24.

Scheme Name	Budget Estimate (in lakhs of Rupees)
Strengthening of Craftsman/Apprenticeship training scheme	38.14
Setting Up of Model Career Centers	70
Extension of Vocational Training	1,211.06
National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme	05

Similarly, considering the total budget allocation to different departments of the state approximately 0.5% of the total budget allocated can be reserved for Interns as their stipends. Ultimately, the aim is to launch a platform run by the State government that caters to the needs of



the students studying in various colleges across the state of Jharkhand including NLUs, IITs, IITs, NITs, AIIMs etc. The internships would be granted purely on a merit basis to maintain equity in terms of diverse representation. To ensure effective implementation of the scheme, at the end of the internship duration, interns will be asked to submit feedback forms with respect to their quality of internships. These feedbacks will help the department to function better.

Considering the scale of the Aspire Scheme, the Government could initially introduce it in few departments such as those mentioned in the above table. Once, this scheme receives a good response and the feedbacks are satisfying this scheme can be effectively introduced in the rest all other departments.

Ministries	2023-24 Budget	Estimate (Approx. 0.5% Of Budget)
Department Of Urban Development, & Housing	3,35,500	1,677
Department Of Law	79,065	395
Department Of Mines, & Geology	7,075	35
Department Of Women, Child Development, & Social Security	7,17,100	3,585.5
Department Of Finance	14,670	73
Department Of Tourism, Arts, Culture, & Sports	34,919	174.5
Department Of Information Technology, & E- Governance	30,436	152
Department Of Health, Medical Education, & Family Welfare	7,04,090	3,520.5



The above table shows the estimated budget allotment for Internship stipends using the FY24 data.

The internship period could range from 4 weeks to 6 weeks and notice for applicants can be released twice in a year – during summer break and Winter break.

Additional Recommendation

Taking inspiration from the [Uttar Pradesh State Government](#), the Jharkhand State's Law Commission department can launch periodical internship opportunities for law students from across different universities of the state. The internship duration could range from 4 weeks to 6 weeks and twice in a year – Summer and Winter. The selected students will also be granted stipends, which will be funded by the Department of Law out of its granted budget, for their time during the internship.

Who Will Benefit?

The benefits of implementing the **Aspire Scheme** are not confined to students, the departments that will grant these internship opportunities will also benefit in several ways.

For Students

- **Practical Experience** – Interns gain hand-on experience in their field of study, bridging the gap between theory and practice.
- **Skill Development** – Internships enhance technical skills and soft skills of the student interns. Soft skills are often not part of their curriculum.
- **Networking Opportunities** – Interns build professional connections which are essential to determine their trajectory of career growth.
- **Career Exploration** – Internships allow students to explore different roles in their respective field, helping them filter their interests and strengths.
- **Mentorship** – During their time of internships, interns can gain exclusive guidance and career advice from experienced professionals.

For Departments

- **Access to fresh talent** – Departments can benefit from the vigor and creativity of the interns.



- **Pipeline for Recruitment** – Internships act as a trial period to identify potential full-time hires, reducing recruitment risks.
- **Increased Productivity** – Interns can handle smaller tasks, enabling the full-time employees to engage in more critical work.
- **Cost-Effective Resources** – Interns provide additional manpower at a relatively low cost compared to full-time employees.



POLICY RECOMMENDATION 3: STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL EDUCATION FOR THE COMMON MASSES AMONG THE PEOPLE OF JHARKHAND (ANALYSIS FOR THE BUDGET 2024-25)

To address critical challenges in a state like Jharkhand, where access to justice and awareness of legal rights often face socioeconomic and cultural barriers, the proposed budget focuses on two key initiatives: ***Legal Awareness Programs*** and ***Clinical Intensive Courses***.

Legal Awareness Programs, such as Lok Adalat sessions, will empower communities by resolving disputes through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms while educating citizens about their legal rights and duties. Similarly, **Clinical Intensive Courses** will integrate practical training into academic curricula, equipping future legal professionals with the skills and experience needed to tackle societal challenges effectively.

The specific goals are as follows:

1. *Enhance Legal Literacy*

Increase awareness about fundamental rights, duties, and legal remedies among citizens, especially in rural and underserved areas, through Lok Adalat sessions and targeted legal awareness campaigns.

2. *Promote Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)*

Encourage the use of Lok Adalat's as an effective mechanism for resolving disputes amicably and reducing the burden on courts.

3. *Integrate Practical Training into Legal Education*

Provide law students with hands-on experience through Clinical Intensive Courses, enabling them to bridge the gap between theoretical learning and real-world legal practice.

4. *Empower Underprivileged Communities*

Focus on marginalized and economically disadvantaged communities by ensuring that legal services and education initiatives reach those who need them the most.

5. *Develop Skilled Legal Professionals*



Train future lawyers in client counselling, mediation, negotiation, and other essential skills through workshops, internships, and collaboration with public departments and Lok Adalat.

Various Government departments (Jharkhand Gov.) where funds allocation can take place

1. Law Department
2. Panchayati Raj Department
3. Higher and Technical Education Department (Focus should be on improving infrastructure in different universities and colleges) {It can also help bring the local enrollment into higher education to the national average of 22% which is currently at a staggeringly low 12%}

WHAT ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES CAN BE TAKEN in the Year 2025-26

The policy also recommends further steps to enhance community awareness about legal rights and improve access to justice.

Clinical Intensive Courses:

Target Objective: Integrate practical training with legal education for law students through hands-on experience.

Activities:

- Collaborations with NLUs, other Law Colleges and local courts to set up clinical legal education units.
- Internship opportunities for students in Lok Adalat's, legal aid centres, and public departments.
- Organize workshops on client counselling, mediation, and negotiation.
- Stipends for student interns participating in clinical courses.



CONCLUSION

The proposed budget allocation recommendations for FY 2025-26 underscore the importance of investing in Jharkhand's youth, legal infrastructure, and governance mechanisms to foster a more inclusive, equitable, and empowered society. By implementing the scholarship scheme, the Aspire Internship program, and initiatives to strengthen legal education and awareness, the state can address systemic barriers to education, employment, and justice. These initiatives will not only provide immediate socio-economic benefits but also create a sustainable framework for long-term development.

Through these forward-thinking policies, Jharkhand has the opportunity to lead by example in creating a model of participatory governance and social upliftment, ensuring that every citizen has the tools and resources needed to thrive. The collaboration between government, academia, and civil society will be pivotal in transforming these recommendations into impactful realities, setting a strong foundation for the state's continued progress.

Together, these efforts reflect a vision of a Jharkhand that is not only prosperous but also just, inclusive, and resilient—truly embodying the aspirations of its people and the ideals of participatory governance.