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JHARKHAND HIGH COURT

Speaking to a Male Friend Is No Ground for Adultery Allegations; Such Accusations Amount to Mental Cruelty

Jharkhand High Court

Sheikh Rayees • November 11, 2026

PUBLISHED REPORT

The Jharkhand High Court has ruled that questioning a wife's character and accusing her of having an extramarital relationship merely because she speaks to a male friend amounts to mental cruelty. The Court described such allegations as rooted in gender-based stereotypes and rejected the notion that a woman's friendship with a man can automatically invite suspicions of infidelity. A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice MS Sonak and Justice Manoj...

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