

ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

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To significantly improve the speed, efficiency and transparency of the judicial process, applications like e-Sakshya, e-Summon and Nyaya- Shruti (VC) have been developed. While the e-Sakshya enables lawful, scientific and tamper-proof collection, preservation and electronic submission of digital evidence thus ensuring authenticity and reducing delays, e-Summon allow summons to be delivered through electronic means, making the process faster, time-bound and easily trackable. Nyaya- Shruti (VC) facilitates virtual appearance of accused persons, witnesses, police officials, prosecutors, scientific experts, prisoners etc. through video conferencing. Integration with Medico Legal Examination & Post- mortem Reporting (MedLeaPR) application for exchanging Medico Legal Reports with Hospitals is also provided for.

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has developed software patches to upgrade Crime and Criminal Tracking Network Systems (CCTNS) application for providing 23 new functionalities as per the provisions of new criminal laws. These patches have been given to the States/ UTs for deployment.

NCRB has also launched a Mobile App called 'NCRB Sankalan of Criminal Laws' as a comprehensive guide on new criminal laws for the benefit of all stakeholders. This Mobile App is available on Android and iOS platforms.

Section 254 (Evidence for Protection), section 265 (Evidence for Prosecution) and section 266 (Evidence for Defence) of Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNNS), 2023 provide for use of audio-video electronic means for recording of evidence and examination of witnesses. Further, section 530 of BNSS provides that all trials, inquiries and proceedings under BNSS may be held in electronic mode, by use of electronic communication or use of audio-video electronic means.

This was stated by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs Shri Bandi Sanjay Kumar in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

RK/VV/RR/HS/PS/PR

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