SO

**Principal District Court, Krishna, Machilipatnam, Dt.27.10.2026.**

Copy of the Hon'ble High Court's letter in ROC.No.1382/2025-CPS, dt.22.10.2026 together with Gazettes in G.No.227, dated 17.07.2026, G.No.368, dated 05.08.2026 and G.No.129, dated 25.05.2026, is communicated to all the Judicial Officers working in the Unit of Krishna, for information and necessary action.

Dis. No. 9456
27/10/26

PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE,
KRISHNA, MACHILIPATNAM.

Copy to

The Translator and Bench Clerks, Principal District Court, Krishna at Machilipatnam.
The System Officer, Principal District Court, Krishna at Machilipatnam, with a direction to upload the same in official website.

DISTRICT COURT, KRISHNA
23 OCT 2026
AO
MACHILIPATNAM

D.YEDUKONDALU
REGISTRAR (IT-cum-CPC)

AMARAVATI,
Dated: 22-10-2026.

**ROC.NO.1382/2025-CPS**

To
All the Unit Heads,
District Judiciary, State of Andhra Pradesh.

Sir/Madam,

R.No:15403
23-10-26

**SUB: HIGH COURT – COMPUTER SECTION** – Gazette Notifications relating to eSummons, eSakshya and Nyaya Shruti (Video Conferencing) Rules – Forwarding Notifications – Regarding.

**REF:** 1. Gazette Notification of the Andhra Pradesh Electronic Communication and Video Conferencing Rules, 2026 vide G.368, dated:05.08.2026.
**2.** Gazette Notification of the Andhra Pradesh Electronic Processes (Issuance, Service and Execution) Rules, 2025 vide G.129, dated:25.05.2026.
**3.** Gazette Notification of the Andhra Pradesh ESakshya Management Rules, 2026 vide G.287, dated:17.07.2026.

-o0o-

Adverting to the subject and references cited above, I am herewith forwarding the following Gazette Rules pertaining to 1. Andhra Pradesh Electronic Communication and Video Conferencing Rules; 2. Andhra Pradesh Electronic Processes (Issuance, Service and Execution) Rules, 2025; 3. Andhra Pradesh ESakshya Management Rules, 2026.

This is for information and necessary action.

Yours Sincerely,

REGISTRAR (IT-CUM-CPC)

Registered No. HSE-49/2016

(3)

RIGHT TO INFORMATION

# ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ రాజపత్రము

# THE ANDHRA PRADESH GAZETTE

## PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

W.No.29 AMARAVATI, FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026 G.287

## PART I - NOTIFICATIONS BY GOVERNMENT, HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER OFFICERS

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## NOTIFICATIONS BY GOVERNMENT

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### (COURTS-B)

ANDHRA PRADESH ESAKSHYA MANAGEMENT RULES, 2026.

*[G.O.Ms.No.139, Home (Courts-B), 17th July, 2026.]*

**NOTIFICATION**

In exercise of the powers conferred under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Act No.46 of 2023) and all other enabling provisions, the High Court of Andhra Pradesh hereby makes the following Rules, namely:-

**The Andhra Pradesh eSakshya Management Rules, 2026**

1. **Short title and commencement**. -

(1) These Rules may be called the "Andhra Pradesh eSakshya Management Rules, 2026."

(2) They shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Andhra Pradesh Official Gazette.

2. **Definitions.** -

(1) In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires, -

(a)"CCTNS" means Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems, a system software used by the Police for the collection of data and execution of instructions;

(b)"CIS" means Case Information System, a system software used by the District Judiciary and High Court for the collection of data and execution of instructions;

(c)"eSign" means authentication of any electronic record by a subscriber or court, by means of the electronic technique specified in the Second Schedule of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (Act No.21 of 2000) and includes digital signature. Also, when a process or report generated in electronic form is authenticated by means of electronic signature, it shall be deemed to be authenticated by signature of the person who affixed the electronic signature.

(d)"High Court" means the High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Amaravati.

(e)"ICJS" shall mean Inter-operable Criminal Justice System, a software presently in operation for transfer of information among various pillars of criminal justice system, which includes investigating agencies, courts, correctional homes, forensic laboratories, prosecution; and any other stakeholder as notified by the Central Government.

(f) "Investigating Officer" means any police officer or any other person authorized by a competent authority or empowered to undertake investigation for any offence.

(g)"Sakshya" means any evidence collected/recorded as a document through eSakshya Mobile Application. Sakshya consists of video recording(s), photograph(s), photograph(s) of witness(s) and photograph of the investigating/recording officer. All evidence record through eSakshya Mobile Application shall generate a secure packet of the event (hereinafter referred to as "eSakshya Packet') with a unique ID called SID, a unique 16 digit ID (SID) with opening, closing time stamp and geo-location. Each SID and its contents will have unique hash value to ensure integrity. Sakshya will be stored in immutable storage.

(h)"Sanhita" means the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Act No.46 of 2023).

(2)Words and expressions used, but not defined in these rules shall have the same meaning as assigned to them in the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Act No.46 of 2023); the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Act No.45 of 2023); the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, (Act No.47 of 2023) and the Information Technology Act, 2000 (Act No.21 of 2000).

3. Every Investigating Officer shall record all video and photo evidence as required under Sections 105, 173, 176, 180, 185, and 497 of the Sanhita through the eSakshya Mobile Application.

4. Investigating Officer shall generate a certificate under Section 63 (4) (c) Part A of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (Act No.47 of 2023) through the eSakshya Mobile Application. All Certificates will be eSigned.

5. Investigating Officer shall link SID with the concerned FIR number/GD number generated through CCTNS.

6. The Sakshya uploaded to immutable storage shall be construed to be forwarded to the Court as required under Sections 105 and 185 of the Sanhita.

7. The Courts can view and manage all Sakshya concerning to their jurisdiction in the CIS application/Sakshya Portal on ICJS. The Court may also store a copy of eSakshya.

8. The Court may permit sharing of Sakshya with accused and the victim (if represented by an Advocate) as per the provisions under Section 230 of the Sanhita.

9. eSakshya packet will be archived after completion of trial and will be moved to Archival mode.

10. Nothing in these Rules shall be deemed to limit the power of the Courts to view the Sakshya by the Court.

11. These Rules shall be in addition to, not in derogation of any other Law or Rules for the time being in force for accepting and managing Sakshya by the Court in terms of the provisions of Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (Act No.47 of 2023).

**KUMAR VISHWAJEET,**
*Principal Secretary to Government.*

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Registered No. HSE-49/2016

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# THE ANDHRA PRADESH GAZETTE

## PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

W.No.21 AMARAVATI, MONDAY, MAY 25, 2026 G.129


**PART I - NOTIFICATIONS BY GOVERNMENT, HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER OFFICERS**

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## NOTIFICATIONS BY GOVERNMENT

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### (COURTS-B)

THE ANDHRA PRADESH ELECTRONIC PROCESSES (ISSUANCE, SERVICE AND EXECUTION) RULES, 2025.

***[G.O.Ms.No.107, Home (Courts-B), 22nd May, 2026.]***

**NOTIFICATION**

In exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 64 and of Clause (i) of Section 530 and other enabling provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Act No.46 of 2023), in its application to the State of Andhra Pradesh, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, hereby, makes the following Rules, namely "The Andhra Pradesh Electronic Processes (Issuance, Service and Execution) Rules, 2025":-

**RULES**

**1. Short title and commencement-**

(i) These Rules maybe called the Andhra Pradesh Electronic Processes (Issuance, Service and Execution) Rules, 2025.

(ii)They shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Andhra Pradesh Official Gazette.

**2. Definitions-**

(1) In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires-

a. "CCTNS" means Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems, a system software used by the Police for the collection of data and execution of instructions;

b. "CIS" means Case Information System, a system software used by the District Judiciary and High Courts for the collection of data and execution of instructions;

c. "Disclosed Electronic Mail Address" means the email account of a person or organization that is used by the person or organization to send and receive messages over internet, and is shown to be admitted, or provided by such person or organization either personally or on a website or portal;

d. "Electronic Communication" as defined in Section 2 (1) (i) of the Sanhita;

e. "eSign" means authentication of any electronic record by a subscriber or court, by means of the electronic technique specified in the Second Schedule of the Information Technology Act,2000 (21 of 2000) and includes digital signature. Also, when a process or report generated in electronic form is authenticated by means of electronic signature, it shall be deemed to be authenticated by signature of the person who affixed the electronic signature;

f. "High Court" means the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, at Amaravati.

g. "Process" includes summons, warrant or any other forms set forth in the Second Schedule of the Sanhita, with such variations as the circumstances of each case may require, issued for the respective purposes as mentioned in the Sanhita;

h. "Rules and Orders "means the Criminal Rules of Practice and Circular Orders, 1990.

i. "Sanhita" means the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Act No.46 of 2023);

j. "Seal" means, image of the seal of the Court;

k. "State" means the State of Andhra Pradesh;

l. "Summons" means any summons issued under the Sanhita;

m. "Warrant" means a warrant issued under the Sanhita and includes bailable warrant and non-bailable warrant.

(2). Words and expressions used but not defined in these rules shall have the same meaning as assigned to them in the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Act No.46 of 2023); the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Act No.45 of 2023); the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (Act No.47 of 2023) and the Information Technology Act,2000 (Act No.21 of 2000).

**3.** The Court shall generate and issue process in electronic mode through CIS in such forms as set forth in the Second Schedule of the Sanhita, with such variations as the circumstances of each case may require. The same shall be served by an officer of the Court issuing it.

**4.** When the Court does not possess required electronic address/contact details of the person to whom such process is intended to be served or when the process issued as per Rule 3 is not served, it may direct the same to be served by a Police Officer or other Public Servant.

**5.** Every process issued in form of electronic communication under the Sanhita must ordinarily be written in the language of the Court and shall be in an encrypted form of electronic communication and shall bear the image of the seal of the Court and eSign.

**6.** Every process issued electronically shall contain eSign in such a manner that the name of the Court and the capacity in which the signatory or subscriber acts, should be clearly mentioned. The summons generated in electronic form shall bear image of the seal of the Court and eSign of the appropriate officer of the Court or the Superintendent or any person authorized in writing in this regard as the case may be. Every warrant of arrest in electronic form shall be issued by eSign of the Presiding Officer of the Court and shall also bear the seal of the Court.

**7.** Where the processes generated in electronic form are received on CCTNS through a secured system, in an encrypted or any other form of electronic communication, it shall be presumed to be issued by the Court. Further, any print out of such process shall have the same effect as issued in original for the purpose of its execution.

**8.** The Officer-in-charge of the Police Station shall ensure that the verified details relating to address, disclosed electronic mail address, phone number and messaging application used by the accused or witnesses, as the case may be, are recorded during arrest, investigation or inquiry and entered in CCTNS. Such details shall also be entered in the Register maintained at the Police Station in compliance with Sub-Section (1) of Section 64 of the Sanhita. If any of such details are not available, the Officer-in-charge of the Police Station shall make an endorsement to that effect in the Register:

Provided that any such details may be amended on the basis of further verification or on the basis of an application by such person.

**9.** Where a case is filed on the basis of a private complaint, the complainant shall provide the details relating to address, disclosed electronic mail address, phone number and messaging application of the accused and witnesses along with the complaint. If any of such information is not available, the complainant shall make an endorsement to that effect.

**10.** The details relating to address, disclosed electronic mail address, phone number and messaging application shall be transmitted in electronic form and maintained in CIS and may be used for issuance of process. Such digital information shall form part of the register under Section 64 of the Sanhita.

**11.** The details relating to disclosed electronic mail address, phone number and messaging application of the victim and witnesses shall not be disclosed to the accused.

**12.** The Officer-in-Charge of the Police Station or any Sub-ordinate Officer deputed by him upon receipt to summons issued in pursuance of Rule 4 may forward the summons on the disclosed electronic mail address, phone number or messaging application of the person summoned.

**13.** (1) Where summons are served by way of electronic mail, service shall be deemed to have been made if the service provider generates acknowledgement of the delivery.

(2) When any summon is sent to a person or organization on disclosed electronic mail address, unless the delivery of the electronic mail is disrupted or bounced back for any reason whatsoever, the delivery shall be deemed to be effected; and unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to have been effected at the time at which the electronic mail would be delivered.

**14.** (1) Where summons are served by way of any other electronic communication including messaging application, the acknowledgment shall form part of the report of the service and the report shall contain details including mobile number, messaging application and screenshot/photo of the application reflecting delivery of the communication.

(2) Such delivery may be deemed to be due service of summons/ process and a copy of such summons/process along with report of service shall be kept in record as a proof of service of summons/process.

**Explanation -** Acknowledgement under this Rule or under Rule 14 include an acknowledgement given by-

(a) any communication by the addressee, automated or otherwise; or

(b) any conduct of the addressee, sufficient to indicate to the originator that the electronic record has been received.

**15.** In case verified details of the email address, phone number or messaging application relating to the person summoned are not available, the officer-in-charge of the police station or any police officer deputed shall make an entry in that regard and after taking printout in duplicate of the summons issued in electronic mode, shall execute the same in accordance with procedure prescribed under the Sanhita.

**16.** When summons are not served by an electronic mail or other mode of electronic communication, or delivery is disrupted and undelivered or bounced back for any other reason, the concerned officer shall prepare a report in that regard containing all details including mobile number, messaging application and screenshot/photo of the application confirmation of delivery and may proceed as per applicable process.

**17.** In case of warrant to any other process required to be served in person is issued in electronic mode, the officer-in-charge of the police station or any police officer deputed by him shall take a printout of the warrant or process and execute the same in accordance with the Sanhita and rules made therein.

**18.** Where any process is served or executed other than through electronic mode, the Police Officer while making service or executing the process shall take acknowledgement of the Recipient and may capture photographs, which shall form part of the report of the service.

**19.** Upon due service or non-service of the warrant, the serving officer of the concerned Police Station shall transmit the service along with relevant documents including bail bonds, photographs, acknowledgment, if any, to the concerned Court in electronic form through CCTNS/NSTEP.

**20.** The Court, upon receiving the report in electronic form under rule 19, may act upon such report as deemed appropriate. Such report or printout of such report shall be deemed to be original for the purpose of satisfaction as the service/ execution of the process.

**21.** Where any process is issued in cases relating to offences under Sections 64 to 71 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (Act No.45 of 2023)or offences against woman or child or offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, the concerned officer shall ensure that the identity of the victim is not revealed in any manner in course of service or execution.

**22.** Any rule made in this behalf shall be in addition to, not in derogation of, any other law or rules made by the High Court to specify for the time being in force for issuance, service and execution of process by the Court.

**KUMAR VISHWAJEET.**

*Principal Secretary to Government.*

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# THE ANDHRA PRADESH GAZETTE

## PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

W.No.31 AMARAVATI, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2026 G.368

**PART I - NOTIFICATIONS BY GOVERNMENT, HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER OFFICERS**

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## NOTIFICATIONS BY GOVERNMENT

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### (COURTS-B)

THE ANDHRA PRADESH ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION AND VIDEO CONFERENCING RULES, 2026.

***[G.O.Ms.No.145, Home (Courts-B), 5th August, 2026.]***

**NOTIFICATION**

In exercise of the powers conferred under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Act No.46 of 2023) and all other enabling provisions, the High Court of Andhra Pradesh hereby makes the following Rules, namely "The Andhra Pradesh Electronic Communication and Video Conferencing Rules, 2026":-

HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
NOTIFICATION

Roc.No.575-A/SO/2026 Dated:20.06.2026

THE ANDHRA PRADESH ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION AND VIDEO CONFERENCING RULES, 2026

**Object and Reasons**

Whereas, in order to avoid delay in judicial proceeding due to non-availability of parties, advocates, witnesses and accused physically, it is expedient to formalize and enable use of electronic communication and other audio-video electronic means for the purpose of conducting trial, inquiry and proceeding under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 (Act No. 46 of 2023).

Whereas, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 under Sections 54, 63, 64, 70, 71, 94, I54, 183,187,193, 209, 227, 230, 231, 251, 254, 262, 265, 266, 308,310, 316, 336, 355, 356, 392, and 530 recognizes use of audio video electronic means and other forms of electronic communication for different proceedings.

Whereas, Section 530 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 provides that all trials, inquires and proceedings under this Sanhita, including examination of complainant and witnesses, recording of evidence in inquiries and trials and all appellate proceedings or any other proceeding, may be held in electronic mode, by use of electronic communication or use of audio-video electronic means.

Whereas, there is no restriction on Civil Courts in using video conferencing facilities in conducting trial.

Whereas, the Courts in the State of Andhra Pradesh has been using video conferencing facilities for conducting inquiries and trials in civil as well as criminal proceedings under the provisions of Rules for Video Conferencing for Courts published in Andhra Pradesh Gazette No.333 dated 10.06.2023 notified vide ROC No.415/2020 CPS dated 30.04.2024.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Article 227 of the Constitution of India, and all other enabling Sections of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, the High Court of Andhra Pradesh with prior approval of the Governor of the State of Andhra Pradesh makes the following Rules, namely: -

## CHAPTER I

## PRELIMINARY

**I. Short title, Application and Commencement.-**

(1) These Rules shall be called The Andhra Pradesh Electronic Communication and Video Conferencing Rules, 2026.

(2) They shall apply to the High Court and District Courts of the Andhra Pradesh State and to all judicial, departmental and mediation proceedings in pending cases.

(3) They shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

**2. Definitions. -**

(1) In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires,-

a) **"Advocate"** means and include an advocate entered in any roll maintained under the provisions of the Advocates Act, 1961 and shall for the purpose of these rules, include prosecuting officers and government pleaders;

b) **"Advocate's remote point"** means a place from where an advocate or advocates may appear through a live link and shall include advocate's chamber or office or a place notified by the Bar for video conferencing;

c) **"Commissioner"** means a person appointed as commissioner under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Act No.46 of 2023) or any other law for the time being in force;

d) **"Coordinator"** means a person nominated as coordinator under Rule 9:

e) **"Court"** includes a physical Court and a Virtual Court or a Tribunal.

f) **"Court Point"** means the Courtroom or the place where the Court is physically convened, or the place where a commissioner or an inquiry officer holds proceedings pursuant to the directions of the Court;

g) **"Court Room"** means the place or room or enclosed space in which Court proceedings are held;

h) **"Designated Place"** means anyone or more places specified where the facilities are made available for use of electronic communication or use of audio-video electronic means with Courts points and shall include Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre from where evidence of such witnesses may be recorded;

i) **"Designated Video Conferencing Software"** means a software approved by the High Court for the use of video conferencing or other audio-video electronic communication;

j) **"High Court"** means the High Court of Andhra Pradesh;

k) **"Live Link"** means and includes a live link for audio-video electronic communication or other arrangements whereby a witness, an accused, party, advocate or any other person is required by Court to remain present virtually in the Court room by use of electronic communication or use of audio-video electronic means;

l) **"Remote Point"** means a place where any person is required to be present or appear through a live link and includes designated place from where submissions may be made before the Court but does not include Advocate's remote point;

m) **"Remote User"** means a user participating in Court proceedings through video conferencing at a designated place or advocate remote point;

n) **"Required Person"** includes:

i. a person who is to be examined as a witness, complainant or otherwise: or
ii. person in whose presence certain proceedings are to be recorded or conducted including an accused: or
iii. an advocate or a party in person; or
iv. any person including victim who is required to make submissions before the Court; or
v. any other person who is permitted by the Court to appear through video conferencing or other modes of audio-visual electronic communication;

o) **"Rules"** shall mean these rules and any reference to a rule or sub-rule shall be a reference to a rule or sub-rule of these rules:

(2) The words and phrases used but not defined herein shall bear the same meaning as assigned to them in the Criminal Rules of Practice and Circular Orders, 1990; Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS); Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (BSA); Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act) and the General Clauses Act, 1897.

**3.Construction of references. –**

Unless the context otherwise requires, any reference to Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 in these Rules shall include reference to Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 under the corresponding provisions.

## Chapter II

## General Principles- I

4. Implementation of Video Conferencing under BNSS Provisions:

**(1)Electronic Hearings (BNSS Section 530):**

All trials, inquiries, and proceedings may be conducted electronically, including:
Examination of complainants and witnesses, Recording of evidence in Appellate and other judicial proceedings.

**(2)Appearance via Video Conferencing (BNSS Sections 154, 355):**

Persons required to appear before the Court may do so via video conferencing, including cases where the accused is absent.

**(3)Accused in Judicial Custody (BNSS Section 187):**

Accused persons may be presented before the Court via video conferencing, except for the first appearance, which requires physical presence.

**(4)Framing of Charges (BNSS Section 251):**

Charges may be read and explained to the accused through video conferencing, with their plea recorded electronically.

**(5) Evidence of Witnesses (BNSS Sections 254, 265, 266, 310 & 356):**

Witness testimonies and deposition may be recorded via audio-video means in designated locations.

**(6) Deposition of evidence of any police officer or public servants (BNSS Section 254):**

Testimonies of public servants may be recorded electronically to expedite legal proceedings.

**(7) Discharge of Accused (BNSS Section 262):**

Courts may examine the accused via electronic means before granting discharge.

**(8) Examination of Accused in Custody (BNSS Section 316):**

Accused persons in custody may be examined electronically via video conferencing.

**(9) Evidence from Public Servants, Experts and police officers (BNSS Section 336):**

Public officials, forensic experts, and Police Officers may provide evidence via video conferencing.

**(10) Judgment Pronouncement (BNSS Section 392):**

Accused persons in custody may hear their judgment via video conferencing.

**(11) Presence of Accused during Evidence Recording (BNSS Section 308):**

Accused persons must be present, either physically or via video conferencing, during the recording of evidence.

**(12) Signature Verification:** Whenever the accused is examined or evidence is recorded via video conferencing, the signature of the accused or the witness, as the case may be, verified within 72 hours through email or any other electronic communication approved by the High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Amaravati.

## Chapter III

## General Principles –II

**5. General Principles Governing Video Conferencing and other mode of Audio- Video electronic communication:**

Subject to the provisions hereinafter contained, video conferencing and other modes of audio-visual electronic communication may be used at all stages of judicial proceedings and proceedings conducted by the Court, where a person is required to be present or appear is not physically present in Court room:

(1) All proceedings conducted by a Court via video conferencing and other modes of audio - visual electronic communication shall be judicial proceedings and all shall maintain the decorum of the Court and all protocols applicable to the Court proceedings shall be applicable to these proceedings;

(2) All relevant statutory provisions applicable to judicial proceedings including provisions of BNSS, Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, BSA and IT Act shall apply to the proceedings conducted by video conferencing;

(3) Subject to maintaining independence, impartiality and credibility of judicial proceedings and subject to such directions as the High Court may issue, Courts may adopt such technological advances as may become available from time to time;

(4) Courts shall use only High Court/Government approved and secure video conferencing platforms equipped with end-to-end encryption to protect data and privacy;

(5) Any unauthorized access, hacking attempts, or security breaches must be reported immediately and addressed in accordance with the law;

(6) The Rules as applicable to a Court shall mutatis mutandis apply to a Commissioner appointed by the Court to record evidence and to an inquiry officer conducting an inquiry;

(7) Unless expressly permitted by the Court, no person, either at Court Point or at designated place or at Remote Point or Advocate's Remote Point, shall record or publish the proceedings conducted by video conferencing or other modes of audio-visual electronic communication;

(8) There shall be no unauthorized recording of the proceedings by any person or entity;

(9) Any un-authorized recording or transmitting of the proceedings by any person, including the witness, the Advocate appearing for the parties or any third party to the proceedings shall be actionable and may invite penal consequences.

**6. Identification of person appearing through video conferencing or other modes of audio-visual electronic communication.-**

(1) The person defined in Rule 2(1)(n) shall provide an identity proof as recognized by the Government of India or State Government to the Court point coordinator by electronic communication.

(2) In case, identity proof is not readily available, the Court may, upon satisfaction, allow such person to participate in proceedings without production of identity proof.

**7. Facilities recommended for Video Conferencing:**

(1) Each Courtroom should be equipped with a video conferencing facility to enable seamless connectivity with stakeholders. This integration will eliminate the need to move to a separate dedicated room for virtual hearings, ensuring efficiency, saving time, and enhancing judicial proceedings.

(2) A dedicated and exclusive video conferencing center should be established promptly at each District and Taluq Court level.

(3) A dedicated space shall be maintained for video conferencing within police stations, prisons, prosecution offices, forensic departments, and other designated places.

(4) The following equipments are recommended for conducting proceedings by video conferencing at the Court Point and the Remote Point:

| Computer | Desktop and Laptop |
|---|---|
| Network and Internet Connectivity | High-Speed internet Connection (Minimum 50 Mbps)- Ensures seamless video transmission without lag:<br>Backup Internet Connection-A secondary connection to prevent disruptions:<br>Dedicated LAN/Wi-Fi Setup - Ensures stable and secure connectivity; |
| Video Equipment | High-Resolution Cameras (Full HD/4K) -To capture clear video feeds of participants;<br>Adjustable and Multiple Camera Angles - Enables focusing on the judge, lawyers, accused, or witnesses; |
| Audio Equipment | Noise-Canceling Microphones - Reduces background noise and ensures clear audio transmission;<br>High-Quality Speakers - Provides clear sound output for participants;<br>Echo-Cancellation and Acoustic Treatment - Enhances audio clarity by minimizing reverberation; |
| Display and Projection Equipment | Large Display Screens (LED/Projectors) - For clear visibility of remote participants;<br>Multiple Screen Setup (Optional) - Allows simultaneous viewing of different participants; |
| Software and Encryption Standards | End-to-End Encrypted Video Conferencing Software - Ensures secure communication;<br>Firewall and VPN Protection - Prevents unauthorized access;<br>Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for Users - Ensures identity verification;<br>Secure Login Credentials for Each Session - Limits access to authorized personnel: |

| | |
|---|---|
| Recording and Documentation | Court-Approved Recording Mechanism - Allows secure documentation of hearings;<br>Transcription Services - Automated/manual transcription of Court proceedings;<br>Cloud or Local Storage Options - Secure storage for recorded sessions; |
| IT Support and Maintenance | On-Site Technical Team - Ensures quick resolution of technical issues;<br>24/7 Remote IT Support - Provides assistance for troubleshooting;<br>Regular Equipment Maintenance - Ensures uninterrupted functionality; |
| Power Back-up | Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) System - Prevents power outages from disrupting proceedings;<br>Backup Generators - For prolonged power failures, etc. |

**8. The designated video conferencing software to be procured by High Court shall facilitate following minimum requirements:-**

(1) an online, real-time collaboration software with features like video, voice, screen sharing, document sharing, presentation, recording, etc;

(2) the solution should have a whiteboard for flashing messages and recording meetings or sessions;

(3) the complete access log of the different users with extended reports, including IP/ Device details/ Application details, should be provided with each meeting room;

(4) the platform should be hosted on an India-based data centre with a 100% Disaster Recovery site;

(5) the platform must offer cross-platform functionality, ensuring seamless operation across various operating systems, including Windows, Linux, mac OS, iOS, etc., to accommodate diverse technology ecosystems of all participants and guarantee a consistent user experience regardless of the operating system used;

(6) the platform must be scalable to multi-point connectivity with 500 user logins at a time;

(7) the platform must provide private and confidential Breakout rooms; between multiple users;

(8) the platform must be capable of synchronizing and scheduling with cause list of cases by advocates with waiting lobby and automatic pulling according to the cause list;

(9) the platform must provide master control facility at Court's end, recording and archiving facility at Court point server or cloud;

(10) the platform must provide audit trail facility of the proceedings and also provision of a firewall.

**9. Appointment of Coordinators.-**

(1) There shall be a Coordinator both at the Court Point and at the designated place from where any required person is to be examined or heard or is directed to remain present. However, coordinator may be required at the remote point only when a witness or a person accused of an offence is to be examined;

(2) In all the Courts, one or more persons nominated by the High Court or the Principal District and Sessions Judge concerned within whose jurisdiction the respective Court is present, shall perform the functions of the coordinators at the designated place;

(3) The Court may appoint any Court official as a coordinator at the Court Point;

(4) The coordinator at the designated place may be any of the following:

| Sub Rule | Where the Advocate or Required Person is at the Following Point: | The Remote Point Coordinator shall be: |
|---|---|---|
| (i) | Overseas | An official of an Indian Consulate / the relevant Indian Embassy / the relevant High Commission of India: |
| (ii) | Court of another State or Union Territory of India | Any authorized, official nominated by the concerned District Judge; |
| (iii) | Mediation Centre or office of District Legal Services Authority | Any authorized person / official nominated by the Chairperson or Secretary of the concerned District Legal Services Authority; |
| (iv) | Jail or prison | The concerned Jail Superintendent or Officer- in-charge of the prison; |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (v) | Hospitals administered by the Central Government, the State Government or Local Bodies | Medical Superintendent or an official authorized by them or the person in charge of the said hospital; |
| (vi) | Observation Home, Special Home, Children's Home, Shelter Home, or any institution referred to as a Child Care Institution and where the Required Person is a juvenile or a child or a person who is an inmate of such Child Care Institution | The Superintendent or Officer in charge of that Child Care Institution or an official authorized by them; |
| (vii) | Women's Rescue Homes, Protection Homes, Shelter Homes, Nari Niketans or any institution referred to as a women's facility (collectively referred to as women's facilities). | The Superintendent or Officer-in-charge of the women's facility or an official authorized by them; |
| (viii) | In custody, care or employment of any other Government office, Organization or Institution (collectively referred to as institutional facilities) | The Superintendent or Officer-in-charge of the institutional facility or an official authorized by them; |
| (ix) | Forensic Science Lab | The Administrative officer in-charge or their nominee; |
| (x) | In case of any other location | The concerned Court may nominate any public servant of public official of the concerned department to render services as a Coordinator to ensure that the proceedings are conducted in a fair, impartial and independent manner and according to the directions issued by the Court in that behalf. |

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of Clause 9(4)(i), where witness examination is to take place in a criminal case of a person located outside the country, the provisions of the BNSS, 2023 (Section 110 & Chapter 8) and "Comprehensive Guidelines for investigation abroad and issue of Letters Rogatory (LRs) / Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) Request and Service of Summons / Notices/ Judicial documents in respect of Criminal Matters prevailing at that time" will be followed to the extent they comport with the provisions of the BNSS and BSA.

**10. Preparatory arrangements.-**

(1) The coordinator at the designated place/remote point shall ensure that;

(a) The required persons scheduled to appear in a particular proceeding are ready at the remote point/designated place for video conferencing well before the scheduled time;

(b) No unauthorized recording device is used;

(c) No unauthorized person enters the remote point or designated place when the video conference is in progress;

(d) The person being examined is not prompted, tutored, coaxed. induced or coerced in any manner by any person and that the person being examined does not refer to any document, script or device without the permission of the Court concerned during the course of examination.

(2) Where the witness to be examined through video conferencing or other audio-visual electronic communication requires or if it is otherwise expedient to do so, the Court shall give sufficient notice in advance, setting out the schedule of video conferencing and in appropriate cases may provide the copies of all or any part of the relevant documents in electronic form to the coordinator of the concerned remote point.

(3) Before the scheduled video conferencing, the Court shall ensure that the coordinator at the designated place or remote point receives in electronic form, copies of all or any part of the documents which may be required for recording of evidence, or for reference of the witness. However, coordinator shall allow such documents in electronic form to be used by the required person only with the permission of the Court.

(4) Whenever required, the Court shall order the coordinator at the remote point or at Court point to provide-

(a) a translator in case the person to be examined is not conversant with the official language of the Court:

(b) an expert in sign languages in case the person to be examined is impaired in speech and/or hearing;

(c) an interpreter or a special educator, as the case may be, in case a person to be examined is differently abled either temporarily or permanently;

(d) a person for reading of documents in case the person to be examined is visually challenged.

## CHAPTER IV

## PROCEDURE FOR VIDEO CONFERENCING

**11. Appearance through video conferencing and other modes of audio-visual electronic communication.-**

(1) In criminal cases, any party to the proceedings or witness, save and except where proceedings are initiated at the instance of the Court or on request of public prosecutor, may move a request for presence and proceedings through video conferencing (SCHEDULE – II).

(2) In civil cases, the court may, at its discretion or on request of any of the parties initiate process for hearing of any case through video conferencing and other modes of audio-visual electronic communication.

(3) While allowing a request for video conferencing, the Court may also fix the schedule for convening the video conferencing.

(4) An advocate may appear from advocate's remote point for making submissions or for examination of witnesses.

(5) Where video conferencing proceedings are conducted for making oral submissions, the order may require the advocate or party in person to submit written arguments and precedents, if any, in advance.

**12. Service of processes.-**

Processes issued to a witness who is to be examined through video conferencing, shall mention the date, time and venue of the concerned designated place and shall direct the witness to attend in person along with proof of identify. If a person is examined with reference to a particular document then the process to witness must be accompanied by a copy of the document:

Provided that nothing in this rule shall preclude a Court from conducting trials, inquires and proceedings in electronic mode, by use of electronic communication or use of audio-video electronic means.

**13.Examination of persons and witnesses through video conferencing and other modes of audio-visual electronic communication .-**

(1) The person being examined through video conferencing and other modes of audio visual electronic communication shall ordinarily be examined during the working hours of the Court concerned or at such time as the Court may deem fit.

(2) Where the person being examined is an accused, the Court shall provide adequate opportunity to consult with his advocate before and after the video conferencing.

(3) The Court shall read over and explain the evidence recorded to the witness and obtain the signature of the person being examined on the transcript immediately after the examination is concluded. The signed transcript shall form part of the record of the judicial proceedings. The signature on the transcript of the person being examined shall be obtained in either of the following ways.-

(a) If digital signatures are available at both the concerned Court Point and remote point, the copy of the transcript digitally signed by the presiding officer at the Court Point shall be sent by the designated video conferencing software or official e-mail to the coordinator at remote point where a print out of the same shall be taken and signed by the person being examined. A scanned copy of the transcript digitally signed by the coordinator at the remote point shall be transmitted by the designated video conferencing software or official e-mail of the Court Point;

(b) If digital signatures are not available, the printout of the transcript shall be signed by the presiding Judge, at the Court Point and shall be sent in non editable scanned format by the designated video conferencing software or official e-mail account of the designated place or e-mail of the coordinator at remote point where a printout of the same shall be taken and signed by the person examined and countersigned by the coordinator at the remote point. A non-editable scanned format of the transcript so signed shall be sent by the coordinator at the remote point by the designated video conferencing software or official e-mail to the Court Point where a print out of the same shall be taken and shall be made as part of the judicial record.

(4) The Court may, at the request of a person to be examined, or on its own motion, taking into account the best interest of the person to be examined, direct appropriate measures to protect the privacy of the person examined bearing in mind aspects such as age, gender, physical condition and recognized customs and practices.

(5) The coordinator at the designated place shall ensure that no person is present at the remote point save and except the person being examined and those whose presence is deemed administratively necessary by the coordinator for the proceedings.

(6) The Court may also impose such other conditions as are necessary for effective hearing of cases through video conferencing and other modes of audio-video electronic communication.

(7) If the Court thinks fit, the required person may be permitted to connect through video conferencing or other modes of audio-visual electronic communication from the place of his residence or work:

Provided that evidence of a witness shall be recorded only from the designated place, except in situation hereinafter provided.

(8) Where a required person is not capable of reaching the Court Point or the designated place due to sickness or physical infirmity, or whose presence cannot be secured without undue delay or expense, the Court may authorize conduct of video conferencing from the place at which such person is located. In such circumstances the Court may direct the use of portable video conferencing systems and ensure presence as it may deem fit.

(9) Where the Court is of opinion, for the reasons recorded in writing that, evidence of the witness cannot be effectively recorded, may decline to examine such witness through video conferencing.

**14. Exhibiting or showing documents to witness or accused at a remote point.-**

In the course of examination of a person at a remote point by video conferencing, if it is necessary to show a document to the person, the Court may permit the document to be shown in the following manner:

(a) if the document is at Court Point, by transmitting the document through document visualize;

(b) if the document is at Court Point, but document visualizer is not available, by transmitting a copy or image of the document to the remote point electronically through the designated video conferencing software or official e-mail:

(c) if the document is at the remote point, by transmitting a copy or image of the document to the Court Point electronically through the designated video conferencing software or official e-mail. The hard copy of the document counter signed by the witness and the coordinator at the designated place shall also be dispatched to the Court Point.

**15. Ensuring seamless video conferencing.-**

(1) The coordinator at Court Point shall provide the live link of the video conferencing hearing with advocates or the required person.

(2) If the proceedings are carried out from any place other than a remote point, the coordinator, if any, at such remote point shall ensure compliance of all technical requirements.

(3) The coordinator at the Court Point shall be in contact with the concerned advocate or the required person and guide them in regard to the fulfillment of technical and other requirement for executing a successful bearing through video conferencing. Any problem faced by such advocate or the required person shall be resolved by the coordinator at Court Point.

(4) The coordinator at the Court Point shall ensure that any document or audio-visual files emailed by the advocate or the required person, are duly received at the Court Point.

**16. Remand.-**

The Court may authorize detention in judicial custody, of any person accused of an offence, by video conferencing or other modes of audio-visual electronic communication as per the provisions of Section 187 BNSS, 2023:

Provided that if the accused is already in judicial custody, whether of same Court or some other Court or is undergoing sentence, the Court may further remand him during inquiry or trial under Section 346(2) of the BNSS, 2023 through video conferencing or other modes of audio-visual electronic communication.

**17. Plea bargaining.-**

The Court may also use the modes of audio-visual electronic communication for the purpose of plea bargaining under Chapter XXIII of the BNSS, 2023.

**18. Record of proceedings through audio-visual electronic communication.-**

Wherever any proceeding is carried out by the Court under these rules by taking recourse to the modes of audio-visual electronic communication, the Court shall mention in the order sheet, that the hearing is conducted through video conferencing.

## CHAPTER V

## GENERAL PROCEDURE

**19. General Procedure.-**

(1) The procedure set out hereinafter in this chapter is without prejudice to the procedure indicated elsewhere in these rules where proceedings are conducted through video conferencing or other modes of audio visual electronic communication.

(2) The coordinator at the Court Point shall ensure that video conferencing is conducted only through a designated video conferencing software:

Provided that in the event of a technical fault or for any other sufficient cause, the Court may for reasons to be recorded in writing, permit the use of a software other than the designated video conferencing software for video conferencing in that particular proceeding:

Provided further that nothing contained in these rules shall prevent a Court, after recording its reasons in writing, from using any software other than the designated video conferencing software or other modes of audio-visual electronic communication, to facilitate the hearing of cases in electronic mode.

(3) In criminal cases, where the person to be examined is a prosecution witness, or a Court witness, or a defence witness, or a person is to make submission for prosecution, or a person is to make submission for defence, the advocate for the prosecution or defence or the accused, as the case may be, shall confirm to the Court the location of the person, and the time, place and technical facilities available for such video conferencing.

(4) If the accused is in custody and not present at the Court Point, the Court shall order a multi-point video conference between Court Point, the witness and the accused in custody to facilitate recording of the statement of the witness including medical or other experts.

**20. Conduct of Proceedings.-**

(1) All advocates, required persons, the party in person or any other person permitted by the Court to remain physically or virtually present (hereinafter collectively referred to as participants), shall have their presence recorded. However, in case participants are desirous that their face or name be masked, information to that effect shall be furnished to the Court Point coordinator prior to the commencement of proceedings for the approval of the Court.

(2) All Advocates, Required Persons, the party in person and/or any other person permitted by the Court to remain physically or virtually present(hereinafter collectively referred to as participants) shall abide by the requirements set out in Schedule I.

(3) The Court Point coordinator shall send the live link on mobile number furnished by the participants permitted to be virtually present in the Court. Once the proceedings have commenced, no other person shall be permitted to participate in the virtual hearing, except with the permission of Court.

(4) Participation in the proceedings through video conferencing shall constitute consent by the participants to the proceedings being recorded.

(5) Establishment and disconnection of links between the Court Point and the Remote Point shall be regulated by orders of the Court.

(6) The Court shall satisfy itself that the advocate, required person or any other participant that the Court deems necessary at the remote point or the Court Point can be seen and heard clearly and can clearly see and hear the Court.

(7) To ensure that video conferencing is conducted seamlessly, the difficulties, if any, experienced in connectivity must be brought to the notice of the Court at earliest on the mobile number of the Court Point coordinator which has been furnished to the participant before the commencement of the video conferencing. No complaint shall be entertained subsequently.

**21. Third parties to the case.-**

(1) Third parties may be allowed to remain present during video conferencing only upon a specific order of the Court. However, they shall be passive participants and shall not be allowed to make any submission without permission of the Court.

(2) Where, for any reason, a person unconnected with the case is present at the Remote Point, that person shall be identified by the coordinator at the remote point at the beginning of the proceedings and the purpose of the presence of that person shall be conveyed to the Court. Such person shall continue to remain present only with the permission of the Court.

**22. Costs of Video Conferencing**

In the absence of Rules prescribed by the concerned Court, the Court may take into consideration, the following circumstances when determining and/or apportioning the costs of video conferencing:

(a) In criminal cases. the expenses of the video conferencing facility including expenses involved in preparing soft copies/ certified copies of the Court record and transmitting the same to the Coordinator at the Remote Point, and the fee payable to the translator/ interpreter/ special educator, as the case may be, as also the fee payable to the Coordinator at the Remote Point, shall be borne by such party as directed by the Court.

(b) Besides the above, the Court may also make an order as to expenses as it considers appropriate, taking into account the rules / instructions regarding payment of expenses to the complainant and witnesses, as may be prevalent from time to time.

(c) It shall be open to the Court to waive the costs as warranted in a given situation.

**23. Access to Legal Aid Clinics/Camps/Lok Adalats/Jail Adalats:**

(a) In conformity with the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 and the laws in force, in proceedings related to Legal Aid Clinics, Camps, Lok Adalats or Jail Adalats, any person who at the Remote Point is in Jail or Prison shall be examined by the Chairman / Secretary of the District Legal Service Authority or Members of Lok Adalats before passing any award or orders as per law.

(b) Such award or order shall have the same force as if it was passed by the regular Lok Adalat or Jail Adalat.

(c) Copy of the award or order and the record of proceedings shall be sent to the Remote Point.

**24. Allowing persons who are not parties to the case to view the proceedings:**

To observe the requirement of an open Court proceeding, members of the public will be allowed to view Court hearings conducted through, video conferencing, except proceedings ordered for reasons recorded in writing to be conducted in-camera. The Court shall endeavour to make available sufficient links (consistent with available bandwidth) for accessing the proceedings.

## Chapter VI

## Miscellaneous

**25. Reference to Words and Expressions:**

Words and expressions used and not defined in these Rules shall have the same meaning as assigned to them in the BNSS, the BSA, the IT Act and the General Clauses Act, I897.

**26. Power to Relax:**

The High Court may if satisfied that the operation of any Rule is causing undue hardship, by order dispense with or relax the requirements of that Rule to such extent and subject to such conditions, as may be stipulated to deal with the case in a just and equitable manner.

**27. Residual Provisions:**

Matters concerning which no express provision has been made in these Rules shall be decided by the Court consistent with the principle of furthering the interests of justice.

**28. Repeal and Savings:**

(1) The High Court of Andhra Pradesh Rules for Video Conferencing for Courts, 2023 are hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding the repeal, provisions of Rules shall apply to:-

(a) Actions and proceedings commenced before these Rules came into force.

(b) All notifications/orders published/issued under the Rules for Video Conferencing for Courts 2023, to the extent they are not repugnant to these rules, shall be deemed to have been made or issued under these Rules.

***

**SCHEDULE I**

(1) All participants shall wear sober attire consistent with the dignity of the proceedings. Advocates shall be appropriately dressed in professional attire prescribed under the Advocates Act, 1961. Police officials shall appear in the uniform prescribed for police officials under the relevant statute or orders. The attire for judicial officers and Court staff will be as specified in the relevant rules prescribed in that behalf by the High Court. The decision of the Presiding Judge or officer as to the dress code will be final.

(2) Proceedings shall be conducted at the appointed date and time. Punctuality shall be scrupulously observed.

(3) The case will be called out and appearances shall be recorded on the direction of the Court.

(4) Every participant shall adhere to the Courtesies and protocol that are followed in a physical Court. Judges will be addressed as "Madam/Sir" or "Your Honour". Officers will be addressed by their designation such as "Bench Clerk/Court Officer". Advocates will be addressed as "Learned Counsel/Senior Counsel"

(5) Advocates, Required Persons, parties in person and other participants shall keep their microphone muted till they are called upon to make submissions.

(6) Remote Users shall ensure that their devices are free from malware.

(7) Remote Users and the Coordinator at the Remote Point shall ensure that the Remote Point is situated in a quiet location, is properly secured and has sufficient internet coverage. Any unwarranted disturbance caused during video conferencing may, if the Presiding Judge so directs, render the proceedings non- est.

(8) All participants' cell phones shall remain switched off or in airplane mode during the proceedings.

(9) All participants should endeavor to look into the camera, remain attentive and not engage in any other activity during the proceedings.

(10) Background noise, unnecessary movements, and interruptions must be minimized to maintain the decorum of judicial proceedings.

(11) The use of offensive language, disrespectful behavior, or non-compliance with judicial instructions may lead to immediate removal from the session and potential legal consequences.

(12) Only Court have the discretion to mute or remove any participant violating these conduct Rules.

## SCHEDULE II

## Request Form for Video Conference

1. Case- Number/CNR Number (if any)

2. Cause Title

3. Proposed Date of conference(DD/MM/YYYY):

4. Location of the Court Point(s):.

5. Location Point(s):.

6. Names & Designation of the Participants at the Remote Point: ____

7. Reasons for Video Conferencing:

In the matter of :

8. Nature of Proceeding: Final Hearing ( ) Motion Hearing ( ) Others ( )

I have read and understood the provisions of Rules for Video Conferencing for Courts (hyperlink). I undertake to remain bound by the same to the extent applicable to me. I agree to pay video conferencing charges if so, directed by the Court.

Signature of the applicant/authorized signatory:
Date:

**A) Bench assigned:**
**B) Hearing :**

Held on (DD/MM/YYYY):
Commencement Time:
End time:
Number of hours:
A. Costs:
Overseas transmission charges if any:
To be Incurred by Applicant/Respondent:
To be shared equally:
Waived; as ordered by the Court:

Signature of the authorized officer:
Date:

For use of the Registry/ Court Point Coordinator

**KUMAR VISHWAJEET,**
*Principal Secretary to Government.*

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