

The High Court of Orissa (Video Conferencing) Rules, 2025

A New Framework for Digital
Justice



Scope and Applicability



High Court of Orissa: The rules apply to all proceedings conducted by the High Court.



Subordinate Courts: Includes all District Courts and Tribunals under the High Court's jurisdiction.



All Proceedings: Covers judicial, departmental, Lok Adalats, and mediation proceedings.



Replaces 2020 Rules: Aligns with new national laws like the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023.

General Principles of VC



Judicial Proceeding

All VC sessions are official judicial proceedings, and all applicable laws apply.



Protocol & Decorum

Standard courtroom etiquette, decorum, and protocols must be maintained by all participants.



Security

Only High Court/Government approved, end-to-end encrypted platforms are permitted.



No Unauthorized Recording

Recording is strictly prohibited unless expressly permitted by the Court.

Implementation under BNSS (1/2)

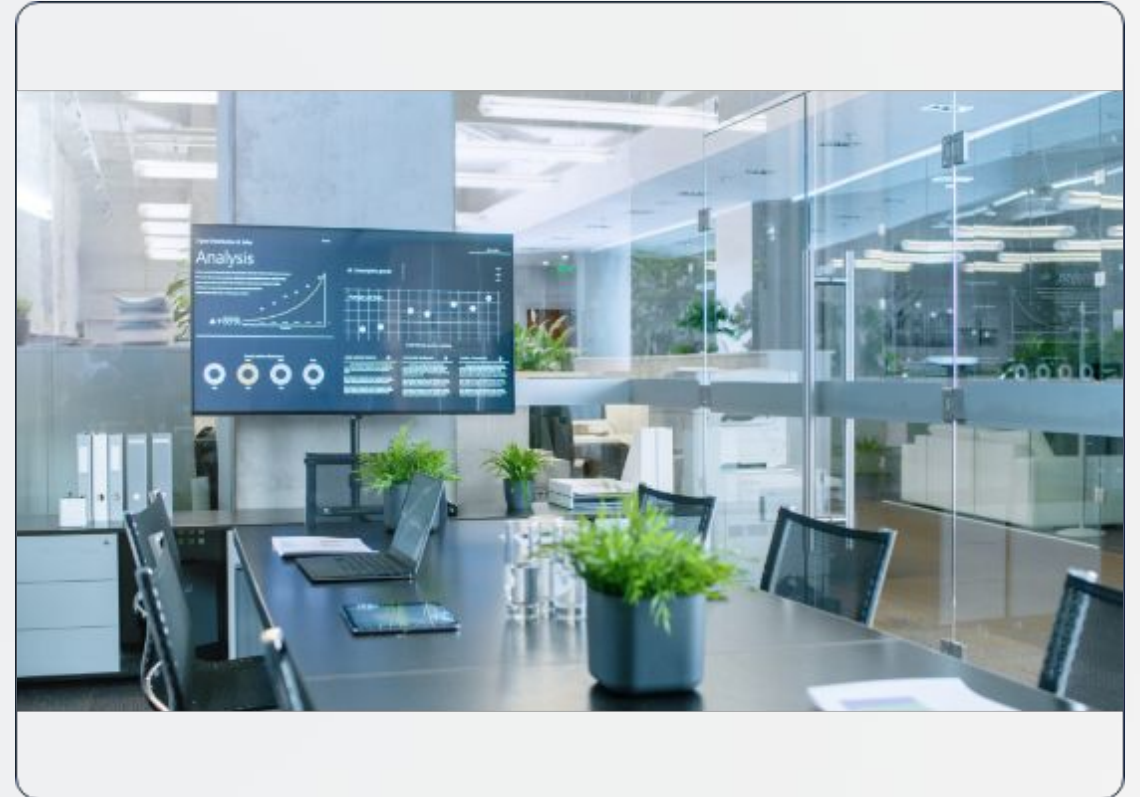
BNSS Section	Proceeding Type	VC Implementation Detail
Sec 530	Electronic Hearings	All trials, inquiries, and evidence may be conducted electronically.
Sec 154, 355	Appearance via VC	Persons required to appear may do so via video conferencing.
Sec 187	Accused in Custody	Accused may be presented via VC (except for the first appearance).
Sec 251	Framing of Charges	Charges read and plea recorded electronically.

Implementation under BNSS (2/2)

BNSS Section	Proceeding Type	VC Implementation Detail
Sec 254, 265...	Evidence of Witnesses	Witness testimonies and depositions recorded via audio-video means.
Sec 316	Examination of Accused	Accused persons in custody may be examined electronically.
Sec 336	Expert Evidence	Public servants, forensic experts, & police may testify via VC.
Sec 392	Judgment	Accused persons in custody may hear their judgment via VC.

Required Facilities & Equipment

- **Courtroom Integration:** VC facilities recommended for **every** courtroom.
- **Dedicated Centers:** New VC centers at district and tehsil levels.
- **Connectivity:** High-Speed Internet (Min 50 Mbps) + Backup.
- **Video:** High-Resolution (Full HD/4K) Cameras & Document Visualizer.
- **Audio:** Noise-Canceling Microphones & Echo-Cancellation.
- **Security:** End-to-End Encrypted Software, Firewall, & MFA.
- **Power:** UPS System & Backup Generators.



Identification & Verification



Mandatory Proof: Participants must provide a Government of India or State Government recognized identity proof.

Alternative: An affidavit attested under Sec 139 (CPC) or Sec 333 (BNSS) is also acceptable.

Submission: ID must be provided to the Court Point Coordinator before the proceeding.

Key Role: The Coordinator

Court Point Coordinator

- Appointed by the Court, usually a Court official.
- Manages the courtroom end of the VC.
- Verifies participant identity.
- Administers the oath to witnesses.

Remote Point Coordinator

- Nominated by the High Court or Principal District Judge.
- Manages the remote location (jail, hospital, etc.).
- Ensures no unauthorized persons or prompting.
- Handles transcript signing at the remote end.

Remote Point Coordinators: By Location



Jail or Prison

The concerned Jail Superintendent or Officer-in-charge.



Hospitals

The Medical Superintendent or an authorized official.



Overseas

An official of an Indian Consulate, Embassy, or High Commission.



Mediation Centre

An authorized official from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA).

Evidence & Transcript Signing



Read & Explained: The Court must read and explain the recorded evidence to the witness.



Digital Signature: If available, the transcript is signed digitally by the Judge, witness, and Coordinator.



Physical Signature: If digital is unavailable, a printout is signed by the Judge, scanned to the Remote Point, printed, signed by the witness/Coordinator, and scanned back.



Hard Copy Dispatch: The physical hard copy signed at the remote end is dispatched to the court within 3 working days.

Conduct, Decorum & Access

- **Professional Attire:** Mandatory for all (e.g., advocates in court dress, police in uniform).
- **Punctuality:** Participants must join the session on time.
- **No Distractions:** Mics must be muted when not speaking, with no background noise.
- **Open Court:** Public access links are provided (except for in-camera cases) to maintain the open court principle.



Questions?

Thank you for your attention.