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PART I—Orders and Notifications by the Governor of West Bengal, the High Court, Government Treasury, etc.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Judicial Department

Writers' Buildings

Kolkata-700 001

NOTIFICATION

No. 1760-JL/JD/16M-20/2025

Date : 03.11.2025.

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 (46 of 2023), in its application to the State of West Bengal, the Government of West Bengal hereby makes the following rules namely:

RULES

1. Short title and commencement

- (1) These rules may be called the West Bengal Electronic Processes Issuance of Service and Execution (e-summons) Rules, 2025.
- (2) They shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Kolkata Gazette.

2. Definitions:-

- (1) In these rules unless the context otherwise requires:-
 - (a) "CCTNS", means Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System, 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) "e-Sign" 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 signatures. 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 Calcutta;
- (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) "Rule & Orders" means the Calcutta High Court Criminal (Subordinate Courts) Rules, 1985 and Orders and Appellate Side Rules of the High Court at Calcutta;
- (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 West Bengal;
- (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 (46 of 2023); the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (45 of 2023); the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam 2023 (47 of 2023) and the Information Technology Act, 2000 (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:

Provided that the generation of such process shall be done through the electronic system, used by the court, within three working days from the date of the passing order by the court:

Provided further that the issuance of such process shall ensure a clear gap of at least fourteen days between the date of its issuance and the returnable date, unless the court directs otherwise.

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 e-Sign.
6. Every process issued electronically shall contain e-Sign 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 e-Sign of the appropriate officer of the court or the Bench Clerk 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 e-Sign of the Presiding Officer of the Court and shall also bear the seal of the Court.
7. Where the process generated in electronic form is received on CCTNS through a secured system, in any 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 is 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 witness 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 mails 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 of 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 summons is sent to a person or organization on disclosed electronic mail address, unless 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 summon is served by way of any other electronic communication including messaging application, the acknowledgement 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 summon/ process along with the 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 of confirmation of non-delivery and may proceed as per applicable process.

17. In case of warrant or 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 photograph, which shall form part of 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, acknowledgement, 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 section 64 to 71 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (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 exhibition of process by the court.

By order of the Governor.

SIDDHARTHA KANJILAL

Principal Secretary to the Government of West Bengal.