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# The Indisposition of Forensics in India: Need for Stringent Forensic Laws

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## ABSTRACT

*In the contemporary criminal justice system, forensic science is essential to the investigation and settlement of crimes. There is an urgent need for the creation and implementation of strict forensic legislation in India due to the ongoing evolution of the complexity and frequency of criminal activities. The urgent need for stronger and more comprehensive forensic laws in India is examined in this research paper. The paper discusses the current situation of forensic legislation in India, emphasizing the shortcomings and holes in the current legal system. It underlines the difficulties that forensic professionals, the courts, and law enforcement organizations encounter when trying to use forensic evidence in court cases. Additionally, it addresses the effects of lax forensic laws, which frequently result in faulty investigations. The effectiveness of forensic evidence depends on the legal framework that governs its collection, analysis, and presentation in court. In recent years, there has been an increasing recognition of the need for stringent forensic laws to safeguard justice and accountability. The study's conclusions offer suggestions for strengthening India's forensic legislation, such as establishing specialized forensic agencies, standardizing procedures, creating a thorough legal framework, and improving training for forensic specialists. In addition to enhancing the caliber and effectiveness of criminal investigations, strengthening forensic laws would support the values of justice and human rights. This research paper argues that to better support the judicial system's pursuit of justice and truth, dynamic measures should be taken to remedy the shortcomings in India's forensic laws. It is critical to understand that strict forensic rules are necessary for both protecting people's rights and freedoms inside the criminal justice system and establishing charges against the accused.*

**Keywords:** investigation, criminal justice, forensic, forensic legislation, evidence, procedures.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The traces of forensics in India can be dated back to the ancient Indian era. Methods of examination of handwriting and fingerprints were found committed to paper in Kautilya's

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“*Arthashastra*”. Such examinations were used for documentation, crime investigation, and the collection of evidence. However, during those times, the use of forensic science was not treated as a subject but as a mere application of science. The concept of forensic science has been subject to significant evolution over the years. The period between the late 19th century and the mid-20th century observed remarkable developments in forensic science as a subject. With the rise of the idea of forensic science as a subject and its uses and applicability throughout the globe, modern forensic science found its way into India in the late 19th century with the setting up of Chemical Examiners Laboratories in Madras, Calcutta, Agra, and Bombay. Further, the addition of the use of anthropometry, fingerprint, and footprint collection in criminal investigations by various government crime-related departments contributed to striking developments in the field of forensic science. The use of fingerprints exclusively for the identification of persons was set about with the help of the establishment of the first fingerprint bureau in the world in Calcutta in the year 1897.

The country's crime investigation system began to acknowledge more divisions of forensics, which were founded in the early 20th century. These divisions and departments included the Department of Explosives, Forensic Serology, Note Forgery Wing, Footprint Department, Ballistics Laboratory, and Scientific Wing in the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). In 1952, the first forensic science laboratory was set up in Calcutta, and it became fully operational in 1953. Institutions such as the Central Forensic Science Laboratories, the Central Forensic Institute, and the Indian Academy of Forensic Science began to emerge as leading institutions tending to promote the applicability and use of forensic science for the dispensation of criminal justice. In 1959, the Central Government constituted two committees, namely:

- (i) the *Central Forensic Science Advisory Committee* and
- (ii) the *Central Medico-Legal Advisory Committee*,

which were responsible for improving existing forensic science laboratories and institutions and setting up new laboratories and agencies for better study and application of forensic science. To conduct research in criminology and forensic science and to dispense training to persons relating to the field of forensic science, the Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science was established in Delhi in 1972. It started to offer graduate courses in criminology and forensic science. Furthermore, the Directorate of Forensic Science Services (DFSS) was set up in 2002 under the aegis of the Ministry of Home Affairs. As a remarkable achievement, the Ministry of Home Affairs established the Gujarat Forensic Science University (2008), now known as the National Forensic Science University. Currently, the NFSC has eight campuses in India and

another in Uganda, in addition to the main campus in Gujarat.

## **II. THE ROLE AND CLASSIFICATION OF FORENSIC EVIDENCE**

Forensic evidence, grounded in the scientific analysis of physical traces, plays a foundational role in the contemporary justice system. It enables investigators and legal professionals to reconstruct incidents, identify individuals involved, and draw connections between suspects, victims, and crime scenes. Though often considered circumstantial—since it is based on inference rather than direct observation—such evidence remains essential in supporting investigative leads and courtroom arguments. The reliability and objectivity of forensic techniques lend credibility to legal processes and enhance the pursuit of justice.

Experts in the field have developed various frameworks to systematically classify the diverse forms of forensic evidence encountered during investigations. Prominent among these are the models proposed by Fisher (2004), Gardner (2004), and Lee, Palmbach, and Miller (2004), further supported by the categorization approach of Peterson and Sommers. This chapter adopts their collective taxonomy, dividing forensic evidence into six major categories: biological evidence, chemical evidence, physical (phenomenal) evidence, firearm and ballistic evidence, and impression evidence such as fingerprints and footprints.

**Biological evidence** encompasses materials derived from living organisms, primarily humans, and includes substances such as blood, saliva, semen, urine, and vaginal secretions. These materials are frequently encountered at crime scenes and often serve as the basis for DNA profiling. For instance, blood evidence may appear in the form of fresh samples or dried stains collected using swabs, while buccal swabs are commonly used to collect saliva from suspects or victims.

**Chemical evidence** primarily relates to substances that require analytical testing to determine their composition or presence. This category frequently includes narcotics such as heroin, cocaine, and opium, as well as drug-related paraphernalia—items like syringes, spoons, containers, or smoking devices. The identification and quantification of these substances can assist in criminal investigations involving drug possession, trafficking, or poisoning.

**Physical or phenomenal evidence** includes tangible items that can be directly observed or handled. This broad category comprises natural and man-made objects such as clothing, weapons, glass fragments, soil, and metallic tools. These items are typically recovered from crime scenes and analyzed for their potential to link suspects to specific activities or locations.

**Ballistic evidence** focuses on the examination of firearms, ammunition, and related residues. It

plays a significant role in cases involving shootings, where determining the type of weapon used, its firing mechanism, and the trajectory of bullets can yield crucial information. Firearms such as pistols, revolvers, and rifles leave distinctive marks on bullets and casings that can be matched to a specific weapon.

**Impression evidence**, particularly fingerprints and footprints, continues to be one of the most trusted forms of identification in forensic science. Fingerprints are unique to each individual and remain unchanged over a lifetime, making them a reliable method of linking people to objects or locations.

Forensic evidence, when methodically categorized and scientifically analyzed, significantly enhances the investigative process by providing tangible, objective support to legal inquiries. From DNA to ballistic residues, and from chemical substances to fingerprint impressions, each type of evidence contributes uniquely to the construction of factual narratives in both civil and criminal proceedings. As forensic technologies evolve, their role in ensuring justice and accuracy within the legal system continues to grow in importance.

### III. INDISPOSITION OF FORENSICS IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The government has shown a growing interest in forensic education by establishing forensic science institutes all over the country, and several institutions offer forensic courses at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Even after such attempts, the recognition of forensic science in India is minuscule. The use of forensic science in courts and the justice system still needs to be narrower and more substantial. Data given by Prison Statistics India for 2021–2022<sup>3</sup> shows that the proportion of convicts was only 22.20%, while the undertrial detainees were as high as 77.13%. The same data shows that such undertrial detainees are kept in detention for an average of 4.5 to 6 years. The pendency of trials in the courts, both at the state and session levels, is the reason why innocents are deprived of justice. Such erroneous convictions are where the maneuver of forensics comes into play. The majority of erroneous convictions are caused by witness misidentification, errors in evidence analysis, and ineffective investigation. Investigation and investigative activities are generally conducted solely by police officials.

According to The Deccan Herald:

*“As a result, lack of evidence is a primary factor that has led to India’s abysmal conviction rate of 35.5 percent for offenses against the human body, including murder, sexual assault, kidnapping, and human trafficking, according to 2021 data from the National Crime Records*

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<sup>3</sup> “The missing piece: Forensics in criminal investigation” – A report by The Deccan Herald (18th Sept, 2022)

*Bureau. Police confirm that having no evidence is a major roadblock in the progress of many cases. In 2021, over 6 lakh cases were deemed 'true' by the police under various Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections and local laws but could not be proved due to insufficient evidence.”<sup>4</sup>*

The same data shows that among the cases against the human body, only 5-6% of the total cases were referred for DNA analysis.

The primary reason for this is the inadequacy of forensic professionals and the proper training required to conduct forensic investigations. Almost half of the evidence referred to by forensic laboratories is still awaiting results due to the scarcity of forensic professionals. The existing professionals also lack the proper forensic training required for collecting, preserving, and analyzing the forensic evidence obtained from the scenes. The lack of training causes improper handling of evidence. The collection of evidence in an improper manner may contaminate evidence, which can affect the admissibility of the same evidence in the courts. Around 318 convicts who were convicted with faulty forensic evidence were released from jail based on DNA tests.

The lack of adequate resources is yet another one of the main reasons for the disposition of forensic science in the country's justice system. Forensic laboratories lack funds and have inadequate equipment, thus resulting in variability in quality, which tends to impact the reliability of forensic evidence. The forensic establishment of the country lacks up-to-date equipment and techniques, which also makes the investigation process slower and lagging.

#### **IV. FORENSIC SCIENCE VIS-À-VIS INDIAN LEGAL SYSTEM**

Provisions relating to forensics are spread far and wide across different provisions coming from different acts; however, they are fewer in number and less specific. All provisions available regarding forensics in various legislations are listed below:

##### **(A) Criminal Procedure Code**

These provisions from the procedural code outline the use and application of forensics and scientific methods regarding matters listed below:

**Section 53: Examination of the accused by a medical practitioner at the request of a police officer**

**Section 53A: Examination of a person accused of rape by a Medical Practitioner-** Section 53A focuses on the interrogation of individuals accused of rape. This involves gathering

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<sup>4</sup> Prison Statistics India Data for 2022 by National Crime Records Bureau

evidence for DNA profiling. Section 53A(2)(iv) CrPC as inserted w.e.f. 23.06.2006 casts a duty on the Registered Medical Practitioner examining an accused of the offense of rape to prepare a report of his DNA profiling without delay.

**Section 54: Examination of an arrested person by a medical officer**

**Section 164A: Medical examination of the victim of rape**

**Section 293: Reports of Certain Government Scientific Experts**

**(B) Indian Evidence Act**

The admissibility of forensic evidence is governed by the Indian Evidence Act, considering the absence of a specifically dedicated forensic legal framework. There are not many provisions regarding the admissibility of forensic evidence, and there are only a couple of provisions in this context. The 19th-century Indian Evidence Act is mainly unfit to handle the intricacies of contemporary forensic science. It is devoid of standards for the validation of forensic procedures, DNA analysis rules, and provisions concerning the admissibility of digital evidence. Court decisions may be unclear and inconsistent in the absence of laws on developing forensic technologies and making good and efficient use of forensics for better and more accurate investigations of crimes. The provisions that deal with the admissibility of forensic evidence are listed below:

**Section 45: Opinions of Experts**

**Section 47: Opinion as to handwriting**

The use of forensics is limited by the availability of only a handful of provisions regarding the use of forensic science in dispensing justice. Several provisions could make use of forensic science in criminal investigations and procedures. It is established that medical evidence is opinion-based and not final; the decision to rely on oral evidence or medical opinion depends on the specific details of the case. In the case of *The State of Haryana vs Bhagirath*<sup>5</sup>, and also in many other cases, the courts held that –

*“The opinion given by a medical witness need not be the last word on the subject. Such opinion shall be tested by the court.”*

Thus, it is primarily important that such opinion or expert advice be corroborated with primary and hard evidence.

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<sup>5</sup> The State of Haryana vs Bhagirath (AIR 1999 SC 2005) on 12 May, 1999

### (C) New Criminal Laws

The freshly enacted criminal laws give little importance to the use of forensics to collect and determine evidence. **The Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023**, contains certain provisions regarding the use of forensics. These provisions are:

**Section 176 (3)** - *“On receipt of every information relating to the commission of an offence which is made punishable for seven years or more, the officer in charge of a police station shall, from such date, as may be notified within a period of five years by the State Government in this regard, cause the forensic expert to visit the crime scene to collect forensic evidence in the offence and also cause videography of the process on mobile phone or any other electronic device.”*

**Section 328** lays out the provision where the reports by officers of the mint or any note printing press or of any forensic department or division of the Forensic Science Laboratory are deemed to be evidence.

Further, **Section 329** provides for Reports of certain government scientific experts to be treated as evidence. Sub-clause (4) states that this section applies to the following Government scientific experts, namely:—

- (a) any Chemical Examiner or Assistant Chemical Examiner to the Government;
- (b) The Chief Controller of Explosives;
- (c) The Director of the Finger Print Bureau;
- (d) The Director, Haffkine Institute, Bombay;
- (e) the Director, Deputy Director, or Assistant Director of a Central Forensic Science Laboratory or a State Forensic Science Laboratory;
- (f) The Serologist to the Government;
- (g) Any other scientific expert specified or certified, by notification, by the State Government or the Central Government for this purpose.

The **Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023**, does not include any provision for the use of forensics for evidence collection but relies upon certain experts such as writing experts, etc).

Before these new laws came into the picture, the basic underlying thought about the exclusion of forensics in the justice system was that the then-existing criminal laws were too behind their time and did not realize the need for forensics. However, the new laws were enacted last year, and still, they failed to address the need for modern techniques of forensic science to be included



in the Indian justice system. This shows the government's tardiness in adapting to the use of forensics.

## V. CASES AND COURT DECISIONS REGARDING FORENSIC SCIENCE

Approval of forensic evidence in the Indian legal system is disputed. Sometimes, courts need help assessing forensic evidence's probative power and credibility, especially in the absence of standardized practices and rules. The weight given to forensic evidence varies greatly from case to case, resulting in contradictory jurisprudence. Like many other nations, India has seen cases of erroneous convictions. Several incidents, like the *2006 Nithari serial killing case* and the *2003 Akshardham Temple attack case*, have drawn attention from both domestic and foreign audiences. The lack of transparency in reports, the lack of documentation, and the lack of consistency in analysis are just a few of the issues that have been brought to light. There have also been numerous cases where forensic reports have been tampered with or falsified. These incidents demonstrate the perils of depending on forensic evidence that is faulty or corrupted, as well as the devastating results of erroneous convictions.

The Indian judiciary has made several landmark judgments emphasizing the importance of reliable forensic evidence and its role in ensuring justice. The *2008 Aarushi-Hemraj double murder case* saw significant reliance on forensic evidence. While the case was ultimately controversial and faced criticism for lapses in the forensic investigation, it advocated for the need for better forensic practices and standards. Similarly, in the case of *K. Sudhakaran v. State of Kerala (2010)*<sup>6</sup>, the Supreme Court highlighted the significance of maintaining the integrity of forensic evidence.

The court emphasized the importance of adhering to scientific protocols and best practices in collecting and preserving forensic evidence to ensure its reliability. In certain other cases, it was made clear how crucial it is to maintain the forensic evidence's chain of custody to guarantee its admissibility in court. It was emphasized how important it is to follow rigorous guidelines while managing and presenting forensic evidence. The case of *N. D. Tiwari v. Rohit Shekhar*<sup>7</sup>, despite not being a criminal case, highlighted the value of forensic psychology and the use of polygraph (lie detection) testing in specific circumstances. The case made evident the necessity of precise regulations and legislation on the use of this kind of forensic equipment. Certain other cases brought attention to how crucial post-conviction DNA testing is in preventing injustices. It underlined the necessity of legislative measures to enable post-conviction DNA testing when

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<sup>6</sup> K. Sudhakaran v. State Of Kerala (2009 INSC 107) on February 5, 2009

<sup>7</sup> Narayan Dutt Tiwari v. Rohit Shekhar and Anr. (Delhi High Court) on February 7, 2011

necessary.

## VI. DNA SAMPLING, EVIDENCE, AND OTHER TESTS

Expert or scientific evidence, as under Section 45 of the Act, holds corroborative value rather than being qualified as substantive evidence. While most countries rely upon the utilization of DNA testing for the identification of accused persons, Indian courts generally refrain from allowing DNA evidence to qualify as primary evidence. The main reason behind this is that courts are uncertain about the accuracy and reliability of such samples due to certain factors, which include the high risk of contamination due to a lack of proper training and skills among professionals for the collection and management of DNA samples, a lack of infrastructure, and well-equipped resources. Courts have, under numerous circumstances, established the growing need for a proper framework and legislation regarding DNA collection and sampling and admissibility in cases that require such evidence. The Allahabad High Court emphasized the importance of DNA evidence in rape cases in the 2010 case of *State of U.P. v. Krishna Master*<sup>8</sup>. The case demonstrated the necessity of strict forensic regulations to guarantee the appropriate gathering, archiving, and examination of DNA evidence. DNA reports vary depending upon the quality control and procedure implemented by the laboratories (See: *Anil vs State of Maharashtra (2014) 4 SCC 69*)<sup>9</sup>.

Furthermore, it is established that courts are not able to direct such forensic tests due to the absence of any legislative framework.

*“Courts in India cannot order blood group tests as a matter of course. Unlike the English law in India, there is no special statute governing this. Neither the Criminal Procedure Code nor the Evidence Act empowers the court to direct such a test.”-*

*(Goutam Kundu vs State of West Bengal)*<sup>10</sup>

The courts, under numerous circumstances, have ruled that DNA tests are only to be directed depending upon the gravity of the offence and the circumstances of the case.

### (A) Need of the hour

The abundance of digital evidence in the modern era has given forensic science a fresh perspective. The negative use of AI to create deepfakes, which may also be used to create almost real evidence, is a serious question. Strict regulations are necessary to handle the special difficulties that digital forensics presents and guarantee that electronic evidence is managed,

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<sup>8</sup> State Of U.P vs Krishna Master & Ors (AIR 2010 SC 3071) on 3 August, 2010

<sup>9</sup> Anil @ Anthony Arikswamy Joseph vs State Of Maharashtra (2014 AIR SCW 1334) on 20 February, 2014

<sup>10</sup> Goutam Kundu vs State Of West Bengal And Anr (1993 AIR 2295) on 14 May, 1993

examined, and presented in a way that upholds the values of justice. The integrity of forensic research can be preserved with the assistance of independent organizations tasked with overseeing the operations of forensic laboratories, evaluating their protocols, and guaranteeing moral behavior.

The importance of forensic science in criminal investigations is highlighted by the fact that India is a signatory to numerous international conventions and agreements, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Convention against Corruption, and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which emphasize the value of forensic science in criminal investigations. However, implementation and transposition of these conventions into Indian law are often lacking.

It is important to ensure that the provisions of international conventions are transposed into Indian law to bring forensic practices in India in line with international standards. The need for stringent forensic laws in India is indisputable, as established in the preceding sections of this research paper. We have discussed the inadequacies of the current legal framework and presented case studies and international best practices that emphasize the importance of robust forensic legislation.

Forensic Laws: Forensic laws serve as the cornerstone of a strong forensic legal framework. Laws governing every facet of forensic science must be passed in India, from evidence gathering and preservation to the admission of many forms of forensic evidence in court. To take into account the advancements in forensic technology, such legislation should be crafted with accuracy, clarity, and flexibility. Strict rules for forensic lab operations, qualification requirements for forensic specialists, and accreditation criteria should all be outlined in the legislation. To preserve the integrity of forensic evidence, measures should also be taken for data protection, evidence preservation, and the chain of custody.

Specialized Forensic Training and Education: The proficiency of the experts operating in the forensic field determines whether legislation is successful. Forensic specialists, law enforcement officers, and legal professionals must engage in specific training and education programs. Both the theoretical and applied components of forensic science have to be included in these programs. Professionals pursuing specialized forensic training will be more prepared to gather, evaluate, and present evidence in court thanks to their enhanced abilities. Additionally, it will improve their comprehension of the nuances related to various forensic specialties. This can result in more convincing and factual testimony, which lowers the

possibility of injustices occurring.

Dedicated Forensic Agencies and Institutions: To ensure efficacy and streamline forensic procedures, both central and state governments must establish dedicated forensic agencies. These organizations ought to have ample funding, qualified personnel, and cutting-edge equipment. Their main responsibility is to carry out impartial, prompt, and precise forensic investigations. These organizations should work with the judiciary, legal experts, and other law enforcement authorities in addition to carrying out investigative duties.

They can expedite the gathering of evidence, give knowledgeable advice on forensic issues, and testify as experts in court. Their detachment from law enforcement can aid in preserving the integrity of forensic procedures.

Digital Forensics and Cybercrime Laws: The significance of digital forensics cannot be emphasized as long as technology keeps advancing. India requires extensive regulation with a special emphasis on cybercrime and digital forensics. Data privacy, the admissibility of electronic evidence, and rules controlling the use of digital evidence in court should all be covered by these laws. In addition, dedicated units for digital forensics must be set up to look into data breaches, cybercrimes, and other offenses using technology. To make sure that digital evidence is effectively gathered and analyzed, these units should collaborate closely with forensic specialists and cybercrime specialists.

Up-to-date infrastructure, periodic updates, and reviews: The discipline of forensic science is dynamic, with ever-evolving techniques and tools. Setting up procedures for routinely reviewing and updating forensic legislation and regulations is crucial. These assessments must take into account recent discoveries in research as well as global trends in forensic science. India's forensic legislation will continue to be applicable and useful if these modifications are included in the legislative framework. In addition, these revisions have to be overseen by a standing committee or group made up of legislators, forensic specialists, and attorneys.

Public Awareness and Transparency: It's critical to increase public knowledge of the value of forensic evidence and the legal framework that supports it to win their faith and confidence. To educate the public on forensic science's place in the criminal justice system, the government should launch public awareness campaigns in coordination with non-governmental groups. Openness and honesty are equally vital. Within the confines of the law, information concerning forensic procedures and examination findings should be available to the public. This can improve comprehension, debunk myths, and demystify forensic science.

India should use a multifaceted strategy that includes education, awareness-building,

standardization, and legislative change to enhance its forensic legislation going forward.

Through the implementation of these measures, India can create a contemporary and resilient forensic legal framework that respects the fundamental values of justice, guarantees the validity and credibility of forensic evidence, and protects the rights of all parties involved in the criminal justice system.

India's dedication to enforcing strict forensic rules would benefit the country's criminal justice system by increasing public trust, lowering the possibility of erroneous convictions, and facilitating a fairer and open legal system. The moment is perfect for this change, and it is apparent how to get there: forensic science will play a legitimate role in ensuring that everyone receives justice in the future.

## **VII. CONCLUSION: A FUTURE OF JUSTICE AND EQUITY**

It is undeniable that India urgently needs strict forensic laws. The research discussed in this paper has highlighted the shortcomings of the current legal system as well as the significant difficulties the criminal justice system faces. Trials being delayed, injustices occurring, and public disbelief in the legal system are all results of the shortcomings in the current system. It is crucial to acknowledge the significance of strong forensic laws and their function in enforcing justice to address these problems. Forensic laws are essential to the efficient operation of the criminal justice system, as evidenced by global best practices and case studies. They offer a strong basis for forensic evidence's reliability and admissibility, encompassing advanced analytical methods, digital forensics, and DNA profiling. In the absence of such legislation, the investigative and legal processes are hampered by the unrealized potential of these cutting-edge forensic technologies. Furthermore, strict forensic rules protect people's rights and freedoms inside the criminal justice system, in addition to providing benefits to the judiciary and law enforcement. They make certain that the concepts of justice and fairness are upheld in the gathering, preservation, and presentation of evidence. By doing this, they contribute to the reduction of erroneous convictions and shield innocent people from the negative impacts of an ineffective legal system.

Although forensic evidence is an effective means of enforcing the law, it may also be a double-edged sword in an unregulated environment. When it is abused or handled improperly, it may have disastrous effects on the accused as well as society at large. The shortcomings in the existing legal system must be remedied thoroughly and quickly. To tackle these problems and rise to the demands of the contemporary world, India has to start a legal reform journey. This entails the development of thorough forensic laws, the implementation of uniform procedures,

the improvement of forensic professionals' training, and the creation of specialized forensic organizations. India may enhance the quality of its criminal justice system, speed up the administration of justice, and increase the caliber of investigations by implementing these dynamic steps. Strict forensic laws are essentially required, not optional. They serve as the pivotal point between the judiciary, forensic science, and law enforcement. India can guarantee that the pursuit of justice and the truth remain the cornerstones of its criminal justice system, restoring trust in its citizens and safeguarding the values upon which its democracy is based, by passing and implementing strict forensic laws. Now is the moment for fundamental change, and to ensure that everyone has a just and equitable future, swift action is required.

The government has realized the need for forensics for accurate conviction and speedy disposal of disputes. Therefore, forensic-driven investigations have been emphasized in the new criminal laws. Under the new criminal laws, forensic investigation has been mandated in cases that attract more than 7 years of imprisonment. Such an investigation includes forensic investigation of the crime scene as well as the accused, and also filming of the process.

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