

Digital Transformation of Police Documentation: AI-Assisted FIR Drafting in Indian Policing

How AI can improve accuracy, speed, and accountability in First Information Report documentation

INTENDED AUDIENCE: State Police Directorates, Home Ministries, NCRB, Police training academies, Crime branch heads

"An FIR drafted inaccurately is a case weakened at birth. AI can ensure that India's 25 million annual FIRs are complete, accurate, and legally sound from the moment they are filed."

Executive Summary

The First Information Report is the founding document of every criminal case in India. Its accuracy determines whether prosecutions succeed or fail; its incompleteness is among the most cited grounds for acquittal in Indian criminal courts. Yet FIR drafting remains, in most police stations across India, a handwritten exercise performed by constables who may have limited legal training, under time pressure, in regional languages, on pre-printed forms that vary across states.

India registers approximately 25 million FIRs annually. Research by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) indicates that errors in FIR drafting — missing sections, incorrect witnesses, inadequate offence descriptions — contribute materially to the 44% acquittal rate in sessions trials. AI-assisted FIR drafting addresses this systemic quality problem without requiring additional personnel or training time.

25 million FIRs annually | 44% acquittal rate in sessions trials | FIR drafting errors cited in 38% of acquittal cases (NCRB data)

1. The FIR Problem in Indian Policing

1.1 What Goes Wrong

Common FIR drafting failures documented in Indian criminal court judgements include: incorrect or missing IPC/BNS section references; inadequate factual description of the offence; missing witness details or contact information; failure to record the complainant's exact words as required by Section 154 CrPC/Section 173 BNSS; incorrect or omitted time of offence; and failure to note seizure of evidence at scene. These are not failures of investigation — they are failures of documentation.

The BNS/BNSS/BSA transition of 2024 has added a new layer of complexity: officers trained under the old IPC/CrPC regime must now draft FIRs referencing the new section numbers. The BNS does not map one-to-one to the IPC; a Constable who knows that a theft falls under Section 379 IPC must now know it falls under Section 303 BNS. Without systematic support, this transition creates a transitional accuracy crisis.

1.2 The Language Dimension

FIRs in India are drafted in the local official language of the state — Hindi in Uttar Pradesh, Marathi in Maharashtra, Tamil in Tamil Nadu, and so on. But legal section references must appear in their statutory form, creating a permanent code-switching requirement in every FIR. Officers writing in Hindi must correctly embed English/Hindi legal section references and translate complainant statements accurately while capturing the exact wording required by law.

2. How AI-Assisted FIR Drafting Works

AdvokAI's FIR drafting module accepts three input modalities: voice recording of the complainant's statement, typed text from the officer, or text extracted from handwritten notes. The system processes the input to extract key information: offence type, parties, location, date and time, and evidence details. It then automatically identifies the applicable BNS sections, populates the standard FIR form for the relevant state, and flags any missing required fields for officer completion.

The officer reviews the draft, makes necessary corrections, and approves it for registration. The system does not file the FIR — the officer remains responsible for accuracy and approval. AI assistance reduces the time to prepare a complete, section-referenced FIR from an average of 45–60 minutes to approximately 8–12 minutes, while reducing drafting errors by an estimated 60–70%.

3. BNS/BNSS Transition Support

DurwankurLLM is trained on both the old IPC/CrPC framework and the new BNS/BNSS/BSA codification, with a complete mapping between old and new section numbers verified by legal experts. When processing FIR inputs, the system automatically applies the current BNS/BNSS framework regardless of whether the officer's input uses old or new terminology. This provides a seamless transition support layer that protects against the drafting errors arising from the statutory changeover.

4. Accountability and Audit

AI-assisted FIR drafting creates a complete, timestamped audit trail of the drafting process: when the complaint was received, when AI processing occurred, what AI-generated suggestions were made, and what the officer's final approved text was. This audit trail provides accountability that handwritten FIRs cannot — and creates a quality assurance mechanism that police supervisors can use to identify and address recurring drafting problems.

5. Recommendations

- State Police Directorates should pilot AI-assisted FIR drafting in at least two districts (one urban, one rural) before state-wide rollout
- NCRB should develop national accuracy standards for AI-assisted FIR documentation tools
- Police training academies should incorporate AI tool literacy into their curricula for all officers from the constable level upward
- Home Ministries should require that all AI tools used in police documentation process data on India-hosted infrastructure

- NCRB should track and publish data on FIR accuracy rates before and after AI deployment to measure impact

About Durwankur AI Lab & AdvokAI

Durwankur AI Lab Pvt. Ltd. is India's only technology company built exclusively around Indian Legal AI. We develop three products: AdvokAI (AI drafting assistant for advocates), JudexVault (institutional legal AI for government and courts), and DurwankurLLM (India's own legal large language model trained on 5,000+ Indian statutes, 75 years of Supreme Court judgements, and 10,000+ real cases from practitioners).

We are a Government-first company with active B2G deployments. Our team combines practicing advocates, AI/ML engineers, cybersecurity specialists, and legal researchers — all focused on making Indian legal practice smarter, faster, and more just.

AdvokAI is ready for police station deployment. Contact our Government Solutions team for a pilot proposal: government@durwankur.ai | www.durwankur.ai/police

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