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A Critical Analysis On Challenges In Crime Scene Investigation

Divya Rajan • Sree Lekha

Vels Institute of Science Technology and Allied Sciences

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Author: Divya Rajan

Co-author: Sree Lekha

Institution: Vels Institute of Science Technology and Allied Sciences

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A Critical Analysis On Challenges In Crime Scene Investigation

Divya Rajan and Sree Lekha

Vels Institute of Science Technology and Allied Sciences

As forensic science continues to evolve in India, the field faces numerous challenges while simultaneously presenting opportunities for significant improvement. This chapter examines the current issues affecting forensic practices, proposes policy recommendations, and outlines strategies for strengthening the forensic science infrastructure in India.

Current Issues in Forensic Practices The Indian forensic science system, despite its crucial role in the criminal justice process, encounters several significant challenges that affect its efficiency and effectiveness. These issues require immediate attention and systematic solutions to ensure the delivery of quality forensic services.

Backlog in Forensic Laboratories:

One of the most pressing challenges facing India's forensic science system is the substantial backlog of cases in forensic laboratories across the country. This backlog stems from multiple factors, including an increasing number of cases requiring forensic analysis, limited laboratory capacity, and resource constraints. The situation has reached critical levels in many states, with some laboratories reporting waiting periods of several months to years for routine analyses. The impact of this backlog extends beyond the laboratories themselves, affecting the entire criminal justice system. Delays in forensic analysis often lead to prolonged trials, increased court pendency, and potential compromise of evidence quality due to extended storage periods. In some cases, courts have been forced to proceed without forensic evidence, potentially affecting the quality of justice delivered. The problem is particularly acute in specialized areas such as DNA analysis, digital forensics, and toxicology, where the complexity of analysis and limited availability of equipment create additional bottlenecks. The situation is further complicated by the increasing sophistication of crimes, which often require multiple types of forensic analysis, adding to the workload of already strained laboratories.

Limited Availability of Trained Experts:

The shortage of qualified forensic experts represents another significant challenge. India faces a substantial gap between the number of trained forensic scientists needed and those currently available. This shortage affects all levels of forensic practice, from crime scene investigation to laboratory analysis and expert testimony in courts. The problem is multifaceted, involving issues of recruitment, retention, and continuous professional development. Many forensic laboratories struggle to attract and retain qualified personnel due to factors such as inadequate compensation, limited career advancement opportunities, and challenging working conditions. The situation is particularly acute in specialized fields requiring advanced technical expertise. Furthermore, the rapid advancement of forensic technologies creates a constant need for updating skills and knowledge.[1] However, opportunities for continued professional development and specialized

[1] D. Mittal, A Two-Year Prospective Study from Punjab Region of India. 19(1) Medico Legal Update 20-25 (2019).

training are often limited, affecting the ability of forensic experts to keep pace with technological developments and emerging forensic methods

Policy Recommendations Addressing the challenges facing India's forensic science system requires comprehensive policy interventions at various levels. These recommendations aim to create a more robust and efficient forensic science infrastructure capable of meeting the growing demands of the criminal justice system.

Modernization of Forensic Infrastructure:

The modernization of forensic infrastructure represents a critical priority for improving forensic services in India. This modernization must encompass both physical infrastructure and technological capabilities to meet current and future demands effectively. Investment in state-of-the-art equipment and facilities is essential for reducing case backlogs and improving the quality of forensic analysis. This includes upgrading existing laboratories with modern analytical instruments,[2] implementing advanced information management systems, and establishing new specialized facilities for emerging forensic disciplines. Additionally, the modernization effort should focus on developing regional centers of excellence that can handle complex cases and serve as training hubs for forensic practitioners. These centers should be equipped with cutting-edge technology and staffed by highly qualified experts who can handle sophisticated forensic analysis and research.

Introduction of Forensic Education in Legal Studies:

Integrating forensic science education into legal studies curriculum represents a crucial step toward improving the understanding and application of forensic evidence in the justice system. This integration should occur at multiple levels, from basic forensic awareness courses for law students to specialized training programs for practicing lawyers and judges.

The curriculum should cover fundamental principles of forensic science, emerging technologies, and the interpretation of forensic evidence.[3] Special emphasis should be placed on understanding the scientific method, statistical analysis, and the limitations of various forensic techniques. This knowledge would enable legal professionals to better evaluate forensic evidence and engage more effectively with expert witnesses.

Initial Response/Receipt of Information Principle:

One of the most important aspects of securing the crime scene is to preserve the scene with minimal contamination and disturbance of physical evidence. The initial response to an incident shall be expeditious and methodical. Upon arrival, the officer(s) shall assess the scene and treat the incident as a crime scene.

Policy: The initial responding officer(s) shall promptly, yet cautiously, approach and enter crime scenes, remaining observant of any persons, vehicles, events, potential evidence, and environmental conditions.

[2] M.M. Rohith, W.R. Belcher, et.al., ―Tattoo in forensic science: An Indian perspective‖ 74 Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine 102022 (2020).

[3] R. Gupta, ―Hookah/Sheesha Water Pipes Smoking: Why it Should be Completely Prohibited?‖ 9EC Pulmonology and Respiratory Medicine112-114 (2020).

Procedure: The initial responding officer(s) should: a. Note or log dispatch information (e.g., address/location, time, date, type of call, parties involved). b. Be aware of any persons or vehicles leaving the crime scene. c. Approach the scene cautiously, scan the entire area to thoroughly assess the scene, and note any possible secondary crime scenes. Be aware of any persons and vehicles in the vicinity that may be related to the crime. d. Make initial observations (look, listen, smell) to assess the scene and ensure officer safety before proceeding. e. Remain alert and attentive. Assume the crime is ongoing until determined to be otherwise. f. Treat the location as a crime scene until assessed and determined to be otherwise.

Summary: It is important for the initial responding officer(s) to be observant when approaching, entering, and exiting a crime scene.

Safety Procedures Principle:

The safety and physical well-being of officers and other individuals, in and around the crime scene, are the initial responding officer(s') first priority.

Policy: The initial responding officer(s) arriving at the scene shall identify and control any dangerous situations or persons.

Procedure: The initial responding officer(s) should: a. Ensure that there is no immediate threat to other responders — scan area for sights, sounds, and smells that may present danger to personnel (e.g., hazardous materials such as gasoline, natural gas). If the situation involves a clandestine drug laboratory, biological weapons[4], or radiological or chemical threats the appropriate personnel/agency should be contacted prior to entering the scene. b. Approach the scene in a manner designed to reduce risk of harm to officer(s) while maximizing the safety of victims, witnesses, and others in the area. c. Survey the scene for dangerous persons and control the situation. d. Notify supervisory personnel and call for assistance/backup.

Summary: The control of physical threats will ensure the safety of officers and others present.

Emergency Care Principle: After controlling any dangerous situations or persons, the initial responding officer(s') next responsibility is to ensure that medical attention is provided to injured persons while minimizing contamination of the scene.

Policy: The initial responding officer(s) shall ensure that medical attention is provided with minimal contamination of the scene. Procedure: The initial responding officer(s) should:

a. Assess the victim(s) for signs of life and medical needs and provide immediate medical attention.

b. Call for medical personnel.

c. Guide medical personnel to the victim to minimize contamination/alteration of the crime scene. d. Point out potential physical evidence to medical personnel, instruct them to minimize contact with such evidence (e.g., ensure that medical personnel preserve all clothing and personal effects without cutting through bullet holes, knife tears), and document movement of persons or items by medical personnel.

[4] V. Venkatraman and D. Rajendran, —Why Woman Want Vote?: Writings of Sri Dharma on Woman's Suffrage in Madras Presidency, 1922–1936‖ SSRN Electronic Journal(2021).

e. Instruct medical personnel not to "clean up" the scene and to avoid removal or alteration of items originating from the scene.

f. If medical personnel arrived first, obtain the name, unit, and telephone number of attending personnel, and the name and location of the medical facility where the victim is to be taken.

g. If there is a chance the victim may die, attempt to obtain "dying declaration." h. Document any statements/comments made by victims, suspects, or witnesses at the scene.

i. If the victim or suspect is transported to a medical facility, send a law enforcement official with the victim or suspect to document any comments made and preserve evidence. (If no officers are available to accompany the victim/suspect, stay at the scene and request medical personnel to preserve evidence and document any comments made by the victim or suspect.)

Summary: Assisting, guiding, and instructing medical personnel during the care and removal of injured persons will diminish the risk of contamination and loss of evidence.

Secure and Control Persons at the Scene Principle: Controlling, identifying, and removing persons at the crime scene and limiting the number of persons who enter the crime scene and the movement of such persons is an important function of the initial responding officer(s) in protecting the crime scene. Policy: [5]The initial responding officer(s) shall identify persons at the crime scene and control their movement. Procedure: The initial responding officer(s) should:

a. Control all individuals at the scene—prevent individuals from altering/destroying physical evidence by restricting movement, location, and activity while ensuring and maintaining safety at the scene.

b. Identify all individuals at the scene, such as:

• Suspects: Secure and separate.

• Witnesses: Secure and separate.

• Bystanders: Determine whether witness, if so treat as above, if not, remove from the scene. • Victims/family/friends: Control while showing compassion.

• Medical and other assisting personnel.

c. Exclude unauthorized and nonessential personnel from the scene (e.g., law enforcement officials not working the case, politicians, media).

Summary: Controlling the movement of persons at the crime scene and limiting the number of persons who enter the crime scene is essential to maintaining scene integrity, safeguarding evidence, and minimizing contamination.

Boundaries: Identify, Establish, Protect, and Secure

Principle:

Defining and controlling boundaries provide a means for protecting and securing the crime scene(s). The number of crime scenes and their boundaries are determined by their location(s) and the type of crime. Boundaries shall be established beyond the initial scope of the crime scene(s)

[5] M. T. Myaing, —Laws Relating to Environmental Conservation in Myanmar‖, in James H. (eds.),Population, Development, and the Environment 297-315 (Palgrave Macmillan, Singapore, 2019).

with the understanding that the boundaries can be reduced in size if necessary but cannot be as easily expanded.

Policy: The initial responding officer(s) at the scene shall conduct an initial assessment to establish and control the crime scene(s) and its boundaries.

Procedure:

The initial responding officer(s) should:

a. Establish boundaries of the scene(s), starting at the focal point and extending outward to include:

• Where the crime occurred.

• Potential points and paths of exit and entry of suspects and witnesses.

• Places where the victim/evidence may have been moved (be aware of trace and impression evidence while assessing the scene).

b. Set up physical barriers (e.g., ropes, cones, crime scene barrier tape, available vehicles, personnel, other equipment)[6] or use existing boundaries (e.g., doors, walls, gates).

c. Document the entry/exit of all people entering and leaving the scene, once boundaries have been established.

d. Control the flow of personnel and animals entering and leaving the scene to maintain integrity of the scene.

e. Effect measures to preserve/protect evidence that may be lost or compromised (e.g., protect from the elements (rain, snow, wind) and from footsteps, tire tracks, sprinklers).

f. Document the original location of the victim or objects that you observe being moved.

g. Consider search and seizure issues to determine the necessity of obtaining consent to search and/or obtaining a search warrant.

Note: Persons should not smoke, chew tobacco, use the telephone or bathroom, eat or drink, move any items including weapons (unless necessary for the safety and well-being of persons at the scene), adjust the thermostat or open windows or doors (maintain scene as found), touch anything unnecessarily (note and document any items moved), reposition moved items, litter, or spit within the established boundaries of the scene.

Summary: Establishing boundaries is a critical aspect in controlling the integrity of evidentiary material.

Section II. Mug Books and Composites 6. Turn Over Control of the Scene and Brief Investigator(s) in Charge Principle: Briefing the investigator(s) taking charge assists in controlling the crime scene and helps establish further investigative responsibilities.

Policy: The initial responding officer(s) at the scene shall provide a detailed crime scene briefing to the investigator(s) in charge of the scene. Procedure: The initial responding officer(s) should: a. Brief the investigator(s) taking charge. b. Assist in controlling the scene. c. Turn over

[6] M. Hopkins, L. Neville, et.al., ―Preventing Acid Attacks and Corrosive Substance Crime‖, in Acid Crime pp. 137-170 (Palgrave Macmillan, Cham, 2021).

responsibility for the documentation of entry/exit. d. Remain at the scene until relieved of duty. Summary: The scene briefing is the only opportunity for the next in command to obtain initial aspects of the crime scene prior to subsequent investigation.

Document Actions and Observations Principle:

All activities conducted and observations made at the crime scene must be documented as soon as possible after the event to preserve information. Policy: Documentation must be maintained as a permanent record. Procedure: The initial responding officer(s) should document: a. Observations of the crime scene, including the location of persons and items within the crime scene and the appearance and condition of the scene upon arrival.[7]

b. Conditions upon arrival (e.g., lights on/off; shades up/down, open/closed; doors, windows, open/closed; smells; ice, liquids; movable furniture; weather; temperature; and personal items.) c. Personal information from witnesses, victims, suspects, and any statements or comments made. d. Own actions and actions of others. Summary: The initial responding officer(s) at the crime scene must produce clear, concise, documented information encompassing his or her observations and actions. This documentation is vital in providing information to substantiate investigative considerations.

Preliminary Documentation and Evaluation of the Scene

1. Conduct Scene Assessment Principle:

Assessment of the scene by the investigator(s) in charge allows for the determination of the type of incident to be investigated and the level of investigation to be conducted. Policy:

> The investigator(s) in charge shall identify specific responsibilities, share preliminary information, and develop investigative plans in accordance with departmental policy and local, State, and Federal laws.
>
> Procedure:
>
> The investigator(s) in charge should:
>
> a. Converse with the first responder(s) regarding observations/ activities.
>
> b. Evaluate safety issues that may affect all personnel entering the scene(s) (e.g., bloodborne pathogens, hazards).[8]
>
> c. Evaluate search and seizure issues to determine the necessity of obtaining consent to search and/or obtaining a search warrant.
>
> d. Evaluate and establish a path of entry/exit to the scene to be utilized by authorized personnel.
>
> e. Evaluate initial scene boundaries.

[7] M. Khanna and S. Garg, ―Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (Ndps 1985): A Critical Analysis‖3(1) Nimitmai Review Journal 28-32(2020).

[8] S. Sharma, K.Kumar, et.al., ―An Overview on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985‖4(3)Journal of Forensic Sciences & Criminal Investigation555644 (2017).

f. Determine the number/size of scene(s) and prioritize.

g. Establish a secure area within close proximity to the scene(s) for the purpose of consultation and equipment staging.

h. If multiple scenes exist, establish and maintain communication with personnel at those locations.

i. Establish a secure area for temporary evidence storage in accordance with rules of evidence/chain of custody.

j. Determine and request additional investigative resources as required (e.g., personnel/specialized units, legal consultation/ prosecutors, equipment).

k. Ensure continued scene integrity (e.g., document entry/exit of authorized personnel, prevent unauthorized access to the scene).

l. Ensure that witnesses to the incident are identified and separated (e.g., obtain valid ID).
m. Ensure the surrounding area is canvassed and the results are documented.

n. Ensure preliminary documentation /photography of the scene, injured persons, and vehicles.

Scene assessment allows for the development of a plan for the coordinated identification, collection, and preservation of physical evidence and identification of witnesses. It also allows for the exchange of information among law enforcement personnel and the development of investigative strategies.

Conduct Scene ”Walk-Through“ and Initial Documentation Principle:

The scene “walk-through” provides an overview of the entire scene, identifies any threats to scene integrity, and ensures protection of physical evidence. Written and photographicdocumentation provides a permanent record.

Policy:

The investigator(s) in charge shall conduct a walkthrough of the scene. The walk-through shall be conducted with individuals responsible for processing the scene.

Procedure:

During the scene walk-through, the investigator(s) in charge should:

a.Avoid contaminating the scene [9]by using the established path of entry. b. Prepare preliminary documentation of the scene as observed. c. Identify and protect fragile and/or perishable evidence (e.g., consider climatic conditions, crowds/hostile environment). Ensure that all evidence that may be compromised is immediately documented, photographed, and collected. Summary: Conducting a scene walk-through provides the investigator(s) in charge with an overview of the entire scene. The walk-through provides the first opportunity to identify valuable and/or fragile evidence and determine initial investigative procedures, providing for a systematic examination and

[9] Y. P. S. BalharaandS. Mathur, ―Bhang-beyond the purview of the narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances act‖ 31(4) Lung India: Official Organ of Indian Chest Society 431 (2014).

documentation of the scene. Written and photographic documentation records the condition of the scene as first observed, providing a permanent record.

Processing the Scene:

Determine Team Composition Principle: Based on the type of incident and complexity of the scene, the investigator(s) in charge shall determine team composition. Trained personnel shall perform scene processing.

Policy: The investigator(s) in charge shall assess the scene to determine specialized resources required.

Procedure: Following the walk-through, the investigator(s) in charge should: a. Assess the need for additional personnel. Be aware of the need for additional personnel in cases of multiple scenes, multiple victims, numerous witnesses, or other circumstances.

b. Assess forensic needs and call forensic specialists to the scene for expertise and/or equipment.

c. Ensure that scene security and the entry/exit documentation are continued.

d. Select qualified person(s) to perform specialized tasks (e.g., photography, sketch, latent prints, evidence collection.

e. Document team members and assignments.

Summary: The scene(s) assessment determines the number of personnel and how responsibilities will be assigned.

Contamination Control Principle:

Contamination control and preventing crosscontamination at single or multiple scenes is essential to maintaining the safety of personnel and the integrity of evidence.

Policy: The investigator(s) in charge shall require all personnel to follow procedures to ensure scene safety and evidence integrity. Procedure: Other responders and/or team members should:

a. Limit scene access to people directly involved in scene processing.

b. Follow established entry/exit routes at the scene.

c. Identify first responders and consider collection of elimination samples.

d. Designate secure area for trash and equipment.

e. Use personal protective equipment (PPE) to prevent contamination of personnel and to minimize scene contamination.

f. Clean/sanitize or dispose of tools/equipment and personal protective equipment between evidence collections and/or scenes.

g. Utilize single-use equipment when performing direct collection of biological samples. [10]

Summary: Minimize contamination by being safe, clean, and careful to ensure the welfare of personnel and the integrity of the evidence.

[10] A. A. Kumar, (2018). The Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

Documentation

Principle:

An assessment of the scene determines what kind of documentation is needed (e.g., photography, video, sketches, measurements, notes). 25 Policy: The investigator(s) in charge shall ensure documentation of the scene.

Procedure: The team member(s) should:

a. Review assessment of the scene to determine the type of documentation needed.

b. Coordinate photographs, video, sketches, measurements, and notes.

c. Photograph:

• Scene utilizing overall, medium, and close-up coverage.

• Evidence to be collected with and without measurement scale and/or evidence identifiers.

• Victims, suspects, witnesses, crowd, and vehicles.

• Additional perspectives (e.g., aerial photographs, witness' view, area under body once body is removed).

d. Videotape as optional supplement to photos.

e. Prepare preliminary sketch(es) and measure:

• Immediate area of the scene, noting case identifiers and indicating north on the sketch.

• Relative location of items of evidence and correlate evidence items with evidence records.

• Evidence prior to movement.

• Rooms, furniture, or other objects.

• Distance to adjacent buildings or other landmarks.

f. Generate notes at the scene:[11]

• Documenting location of the scene, time of arrival, and time of departure. • Describing the scene as it appears.

• Recording transient evidence (e.g., smells, sounds, sights) and conditions (e.g., temperature, weather).

• Documenting circumstances that require departures from usual procedures.

Summary: A well-documented scene ensures the integrity of the investigation and provides a permanent record for later evaluation.

Completing and Recording the Crime Scene Investigation:

1.Establish Crime Scene Debriefing Team Principle:

[11] D. B. Thorat, —A Review on Role of Pharmacist in Current Healthcare Scenario‖11(4) Asian Journal of Pharmaceutical Analysis281-284 (2021).

The crime scene debriefing enables law enforcement personnel and other responders to share information regarding particular scene findings prior to releasing the scene. It provides an opportunity for input regarding followup investigation, special requests for assistance, and the establishment of post-scene responsibilities.

Policy:

Law enforcement personnel and other responders shall participate in or initiate a crime scene debriefing to ensure the crime scene investigation is complete and to verify post-scene responsibilities[12].

Procedure:

The investigator(s) in charge of the crime scene should establish a crime scene debriefing team. When participating in a scene debriefing, law enforcement personnel and other responders should:

a. Establish a crime scene debriefing team, which includes the investigator(s) in charge of the crime scene, other investigators and evidence collection personnel (e.g., photographers, evidence technicians, latent print personnel, specialized personnel, and initial responding officer(s) if still present).

b. Determine what evidence was collected.

c.Discuss preliminary scene findings with team members.

d. Discuss potential technical forensic testing and the sequence of tests to be performed. e. Initiate any action(s) identified in discussion required to complete the crime scene investigation.

f. Brief person(s) in charge upon completion of assigned crime scene tasks. g. Establish post-scene responsibilities for law enforcement personnel and other responders.

Summary: The crime scene debriefing is the best opportunity for law enforcement personnel and other responders to ensure that the crime scene investigation is complete.

Rathinam v. State of Tamil Nadu (1997)

The Rathinam case stands as a significant precedent regarding the importance of expert medical opinion in interpreting autopsy findings. The Supreme Court emphasized that expert medical testimony plays a crucial role in explaining complex medical findings to the court. The case established that while courts should give appropriate weight to expert medical opinions, they must also consider such opinions in conjunction with other evidence presented. The judgment highlighted several key principles regarding medical evidence, including the importance of proper documentation, the need for clear and scientifically sound medical opinions, and the court's role in evaluating expert testimony. The case also addressed the significance of maintaining proper chain of custody for medical evidence and the necessity of following established protocols in conducting autopsies.

K. Chinnaswamy Reddy v. State of Andhra Pradesh (1962)

[12] L. Voora, S. K. Sah, et.al., ―Doctor of pharmacy: boon for the healthcare system‖14(1) Drug invention today 153-158 (2020).

This landmark case addressed the reliability of medical evidence and established important principles regarding its evaluation in court proceedings. The Supreme Court emphasized that medical evidence should be assessed based on its scientific merit and the credibility of the expert providing the opinion. The case established that while medical evidence is crucial, it must be corroborated by other evidence when available. The judgment also discussed the importance of timing in conducting medical examinations and preparing reports, emphasizing that delays could affect the reliability of findings.

The court established guidelines for evaluating medical evidence, including the need to consider the qualifications and experience of medical experts, the completeness of their examination, and the scientific basis for their conclusions. The role of forensic medicine and autopsy reports in the Indian legal system continues to evolve with advances in medical science and forensic techniques. The legal framework, supported by judicial precedents, ensures that medical evidence serves its intended purpose of advancing justice while maintaining scientific integrity.

The interaction between medical professionals and the legal system requires careful attention to both scientific accuracy and legal requirements. Understanding these legal provisions, procedural requirements, and landmark cases is essential for medical professionals, legal practitioners, and law enforcement personnel involved in medico-legal cases. The success of criminal investigations and prosecutions often depends on the proper collection, documentation, and presentation of medical evidence, making adherence to established protocols and procedures crucial.

As forensic medicine continues to advance, the legal framework must adapt to incorporate new techniques and methodologies while maintaining the fundamental principles of justice and fair trial. The careful balance between scientific advancement and legal requirements ensures that medical evidence continues to serve as a reliable tool in the pursuit of justice.[13]

Conclusion

This paper shows the standards upon which criminal prosecutions involving forensic evidence are handled by the judiciary. In the United States, when determining if expert testimony is admissible, the Judge must consider whether the evidence is valid, credible, effective, and appropriate. The criteria for admissibility of expert testimony in the United Kingdom (UK) are support, appropriate competence, impartiality, and evidentiary reliability. The suitability of expertise in the subject field is one of the standards of admissibility of expert testimony in Germany. The principles of free assessment of proof regulate German evidentiary prosecutions. With a few statutory exceptions, the court has complete jurisdiction over the admission and weighing of proof. German courts, in compliance with the standards of free assessment of proof, do not observe such evidentiary laws adhered to by US courts. In German courts, for example, hearsay testimony is admissible, and it is up to the judge to decide whether or not the evidence is compelling. The ‘opinion law,’ which prohibits lay witnesses from making truthful statements, and the ‘best proof rule,’ which requires original documents to prove the contents of the text, are not available in German courts. In Germany, judges actively participate in the compilation of testimony, and the

[13]K. Chinnaswamy Reddy v. State of Andhra Pradesh (1962), As forensic medicine continues to advance, the legal framework must adapt to incorporate new techniques and methodologies while maintaining the fundamental principles of justice and fair trial.

court's decision on admissibility is final. The relevance theory governs proof admissibility in India. The Indian Evidence Act of 1872 states that evidence should only be provided of specific facts and facts in question. A fact can be true but not admissible, as in the case of historical testimony, where secondary evidence of a record may be provided only under such conditions. If it does not fulfill the statutory clause, a text may be valid but not admissible. It is also possible if a text or an expert opinion is admissible whether it is original or otherwise, but because it is irrelevant, such documentation is not recognized by courts. As a result, the criterion for recognizing forensic evidence in India is significance and admissibility. In other words, if the forensic evidence satisfies the requirement of relevancy, it is assumed that it will satisfy the requirement of superior proof or have more probative merit, as stated in the hypothesis.