

Rule 2: Definitions

In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,--

- (a) 'Act' means the Information Technology Act, 2000 (21 of 2000);
- (b) 'communication' means dissemination, transmission, carriage of information or signal in some manner and include both a direct communication and an indirect communication?;
- (c) 'communication link' means the use of satellite, microwave, radio, terrestrial line, wire, wireless or any other communication media to inter-connect computer resource;
- (d) 'competent authority' means--
 - (i) the Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, in case of the Central Government; or
 - (ii) the Secretary in charge of the Home Department, in case of a State Government or Union territory, as the case may be;
- (e) 'computer resource' means computer resource as defined in clause (k) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Act;
- (f) 'decryption' means the process of conversion of information in non-intelligible form to an intelligible form via a mathematical formula, code, password or algorithm or a combination thereof;
- (g) 'decryption assistance' means any assistance to--
 - (i) allow access, to the extent possible, to encrypted information; or
 - (ii) facilitate conversion of encrypted information into an intelligible form;
- (h) 'decryption direction' means a direction issued under Rule (3) in which a decryption key holder is directed to--
 - (i) disclose a decryption key; or
 - (ii) provide decryption assistance in respect of encrypted information
- (i) 'decryption key' means any key, mathematical formula, code, password, algorithm or any other data which is used to--
 - (i) allow access to encrypted information; or
 - (ii) facilitate the conversion of encrypted information into an intelligible form;
- (j) 'decryption key holder' means any person who deploys the decryption mechanism and who is in possession of a decryption key for purposes of subsequent decryption of encrypted information relating to direct or indirect communications;
- (k) 'information' means information as defined in clause (v) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Act;
- (l) 'intercept' with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, means the aural or other acquisition of the contents of any information through the use of any means, including an interception device, so as to make some or all of the contents of an information available to a person other than the sender or recipient or intended recipient of that communication, and includes--

- (a) monitoring of any such information by means of a monitoring device;
- (b) viewing, examination or inspection of the contents of any direct or indirect information; and
- (c) diversion of any direct or indirect information from its intended destination to any other destination to any other destination;
- (m) ?interception device? means any electronic, mechanical, electro-mechanical, electro-magnetic, optical or other instrument, device, equipment or apparatus which is used or can be used, whether by itself or in combination with any other instrument, device, equipment or apparatus, to intercept any information; and any reference to an ?interception device? includes, where applicable, a reference to a ?monitoring device?;
- (n) ?intermediary? means an intermediary as defined in clause (w) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Act;
- (o) ?monitor? with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, includes to view or to inspect or listen to or record information by means of a monitoring device;
- (p) ?monitoring device? means any electronic, mechanical, electro-mechanical, electro-magnetic, optical or other instrument, device, equipment or apparatus which is used or can be used, whether by itself or in combination with any other instrument, device, equipment or apparatus, to view or to inspect or listen to or record any information;
- (q) ?Review Committee? means the Review Committee constituted under rule 419A of Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951.