



INDIA'S 3 NEW CRIMINAL LAWS : TO COME INTO FORCE FROM JULY 1

KEY TAKEAWAYS

**From July 1,
Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita,
Bharatiya Nagarik
Suraksha Sanhita, &
Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam
will replace:**

- Indian Penal Code (IPC)**
- Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)**
- Indian Evidence Act of 1872**

Under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

- **Sedition deleted, and a new section 'offences against the state' added.**
- **Provisions to penalise secessionism, separatism, rebellion & acts against the sovereignty, unity & integrity of India.**
- **Death penalty for gang rape of minors & mob lynching.**
- **Community services introduced as a punishment for the first time.**

Under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

- **Explicit definition of terrorism added.**
- **Electronic/digital records added to definition of document.**
- **New chapters on offences against women & children + 'inchoate offences' (attempt, abetment and conspiracy).**
- **New offences (organised crime, hit-and-run, mob lynching) added, while attempt to commit suicide deleted.**

Under Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita:

- **Time-bound investigation, trial & judgment within 30 days of completion of arguments.**
- **Video recording of sexual assault victim's statement made mandatory.**
- **New provision for attachment of property & proceeds of crime introduced.**
- **In-absentia trial introduced.**
- **Electronic FIR introduced.**
- **Witness protection scheme introduced.**

Under Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam

- **Electronic/digital record defined as 'document' & now legally admissable and enforceable as 'evidence'.**
- **This includes emails, server logs, messages and location on smartphones, laptops, computers & other devices.**
- **Spouses now competent witnesses in criminal proceedings against each other.**
- **Digitisation of all records including case diary, FIR, chargesheet & judgment.**

Overall, 313 changes have been made, which aim to ensure justice is served within 3 years max.

All police stations across India to implement the provisions within a year, starting from Delhi and Chandigarh.

Note:
Section 106(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which provides for punishment of “0–10 years” in “hit and run” cases, has been put on hold due to widespread protests from truckers against it.

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