

December 27, 2023

Government Notifies Three New Laws, Replacing The Indian Penal Code, The Code of Criminal Procedure and The Indian Evidence Act.

On December 25, 2023, the President of India granted her assent to three legislations governing criminal justice in India, namely:

- **The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023;**
- **The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023;** and
- **The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, 2023.**

These legislations have been officially notified and published in the Gazette of India on the same day they received presidential assent.

These laws are set to replace:

- **The Indian Penal Code, 1860;**
- **The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973;** and
- **The Indian Evidence Act, 1872,** respectively.

This process commenced with the introduction of the bills of the proposed legislations in the Lok Sabha on August 11, 2023. Subsequently, they underwent thorough examination by a parliamentary committee led by Shri Brij Lal before being passed by the Lok Sabha on December 20, 2023, and the Rajya Sabha on December 21, 2023.

The primary goal of these legislations is to modernize the criminal justice laws and procedures which have been in force since the colonial-era, with specific focus on escalating penalties for offenses such as terrorism, lynching, and actions that threaten national security.

Furthermore, the government has outlined that the new legislations will also address contemporary challenges in crime and its investigation and enhance the rights of victims for swifter justice, while reflecting the values and ethos of the Indian society.

Nevertheless, it is crucial to note that the effectiveness and impact of these new laws will heavily rely on their implementation.

ABOUT THE FIRM

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