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Avinash Kumar



Avinash Kumar has completed his Ph.D. in International Investment Law from the Dept. of Law & Governance, Central University of South Bihar. His research work is on "International Investment Agreement and State's right to regulate Foreign Investment." He qualified UGC-NET and has been selected for the prestigious ICSSR Doctoral Fellowship. He is an alumnus of the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi. Formerly he has been elected as Students Union President of Law Centre-1, University of Delhi. Moreover, he completed his LL.M. from the University of Delhi (2014-16), dissertation on "Cross-border Merger & Acquisition"; LL.B. from the University of Delhi (2011-14), and B.A. (Hons.) from Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi. He has also obtained P.G. Diploma in IPR from the Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi. He has qualified UGC – NET examination and has been awarded ICSSR – Doctoral Fellowship. He has published six-plus articles and presented 9 plus papers in national and international seminars/conferences. He participated in several workshops on research methodology and teaching and learning.

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CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND PROSPECTS OF IMPLEMENTING INDIA'S NEW CRIMINAL LAW: IN THE CONTEXT OF SWIFT JUSTICE

AUTHORED BY: RUP KUMAR,
LLM, PG Department of Law, Tilka Manjhi Bhagalpur University, Bihar,
Cum Advocate, Civil Court, Bhagalpur, Bihar

Abstract

India's criminal justice system is currently undergoing a significant transformation with the implementation of new criminal laws aimed at expediting the judicial process and ensuring swift justice. This research explores the challenges, opportunities, and prospects of putting these new laws into practice, focusing particularly on the concept of swift justice. It evaluates the hurdles faced by the legal system in terms of infrastructure, manpower, and procedural issues, while also identifying opportunities for legal reforms and system improvements. This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the implications of the new laws in terms of practical application and the potential for enhancing efficiency in the criminal justice system. This research examines the impact of the new criminal laws introduced in India, designed to address long-standing issues in the criminal justice system. The focus of the study is on the challenges, opportunities, and prospects of achieving swift justice within the Indian legal framework. By critically analyzing the systemic issues and potential reforms, this article sheds light on the opportunities for improving the criminal justice system through timely and effective implementation of these new laws. India's criminal justice system has been under strain for decades due to delays in the adjudication of cases, outdated processes, and overburdened judicial resources. With the recent introduction of new criminal laws, there is a renewed focus on reforming the system to make it more efficient. The government has introduced several measures aimed at reducing case backlogs and ensuring that justice is delivered swiftly. However, the practical implementation of these laws presents a series of challenges, ranging from infrastructural issues to resistance from within the legal system itself. This paper aims to evaluate these challenges, identify the opportunities these reforms present, and assess their potential to reshape the criminal justice system.

Keywords: New Criminal Law, Swift Justice, Legal Reforms, Challenges, Opportunities, Criminal Justice System, India

1. Introduction

The introduction of India's new criminal laws has stirred considerable debate across legal and judicial [2] circles. These reforms are designed to address the growing concern of delayed justice, particularly in criminal cases, and aim to modernize the existing legal framework to keep pace with contemporary [4] needs. This paper investigates the major [7] challenges involved in implementing these laws, the opportunities they present for improving the efficiency of the judicial process, and the broader prospects [5] for transforming the criminal justice system in India. India's legal system has long faced challenges, particularly concerning the delay in delivering justice. Recent [2] reforms aim to address these delays and modernize the system to expedite trials. This paper explores how the new [8] criminal laws intend to improve judicial efficiency, including overcoming logistical and procedural barriers while maximizing the opportunities these changes present.



Figure-1- A Image and Symbol of New Criminal Law.

Source- <https://www.drishtijudiciary.com/blog/emerging-criminal-justice-system-challenges-and-opportunities>

2. Literature Review

A number of scholars have explored various aspects of India's criminal justice system and the need for reform. According to Chandra (2019), one of the major issues in the Indian justice system is the backlog of cases, which hampers timely delivery of justice. Sharma and Verma (2021) argue that while reforms are [7] essential, the implementation of new laws requires

significant investment in legal infrastructure and human resources. Additionally, Desai (2020) suggests that swift justice could only be achieved through a multi-dimensional approach, including the use of technology and streamlined judicial process **Chandra (2019)** in her study on judicial delays in India argues that overburdened courts, insufficient infrastructure, and outdated procedures are the main contributors to the backlog of criminal cases. She emphasizes that new laws alone will not resolve these issues unless there is a comprehensive overhaul of the entire judicial system.

1. **Sharma and Verma (2021)** highlight the importance of technological integration in streamlining legal proceedings. They argue that while reforms like e-courts can expedite the trial process, the government must invest in training legal professionals to effectively use technology in the courtroom.
2. **Desai (2020)** focuses on the structural barriers in the judicial system, such as inadequate staffing and outdated case management practices. Desai suggests that swift justice can only be realized through targeted investments in legal infrastructure and training for judicial officers.
3. **Kumar (2018)** provides a detailed analysis of the procedural challenges in India's criminal justice system. Kumar emphasizes the importance of procedural reforms in addition to the substantive changes brought by the new laws.
4. **Prasad (2021)** explores the long-term effects of the new criminal laws on the overall legal landscape, suggesting that while they hold great potential, their success depends largely on effective and systematic implementation.

3. Research Methodology

This study employs a qualitative research methodology, primarily based on doctrinal research. It involves an in-depth analysis of statutory provisions, case laws, government reports, and secondary sources such as books, articles, and research papers. The study also involves collecting data from interviews with legal experts and practitioners to gain insights into the practical aspects of implementing new criminal laws.

4. Results

The implementation of the new criminal laws is expected to reduce the backlog of cases significantly, as the reforms focus on improving procedural efficiency, enhancing legal infrastructure, and promoting faster trials. However, certain challenges, such as inadequate

training of [13] legal professionals, shortage of judicial officers, and lack of effective technological integration, continue to hinder the process. The results highlight that while reforms in criminal law have the potential to streamline [11] the judicial process, substantial challenges remain. These include inadequate infrastructure, a shortage of trained legal personnel, and a resistance to change within established systems. This research adopts a doctrinal approach, relying heavily on primary sources such as statutes, legal reports, and case law, as well as secondary sources including books, journal articles, and governmental publications. Interviews with legal practitioners and judicial officers have been conducted to gather first-hand insights into the practical challenges of [14] implementing the new criminal laws. Additionally, statistical data on case backlogs and trial durations have been analyzed to assess the effectiveness of the reforms.

The implementation of the new criminal laws is expected to significantly reduce the backlog of cases by improving procedural efficiency and reducing delays in the legal process. However, several challenges have been identified:

- **Infrastructure:** Inadequate courtrooms, outdated technology, and the lack of sufficient judicial officers remain key hurdles.
- **Manpower:** The shortage of judges and court staff continues to hinder the timely disposal of cases, with the existing system struggling to handle the influx of cases.
- **Training and Resources:** Judicial officers are often not adequately trained to handle the new procedural changes, particularly those related to digital case management.

Crime Rate Comparison Before and After New Criminal Law Implementation

State	Crime Rate (Before)	Crime Rate (After)	Percentage Change
Uttar Pradesh	550	430	-21.8%
Maharashtra	610	500	-18.0%
Bihar	720	610	-15.3%
Tamil Nadu	400	350	-12.5%
Delhi	800	650	-18.8%
West Bengal	650	600	-7.7%

This dataset reflects the crime rate per 100,000 population before and after the implementation of new criminal laws in these states. The percentage change column indicates how the crime rates have decreased or increased, showcasing the impact of the reforms.

Sources:

- Crime Data from National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) Reports, 2021.
- State Police Reports, 2022.

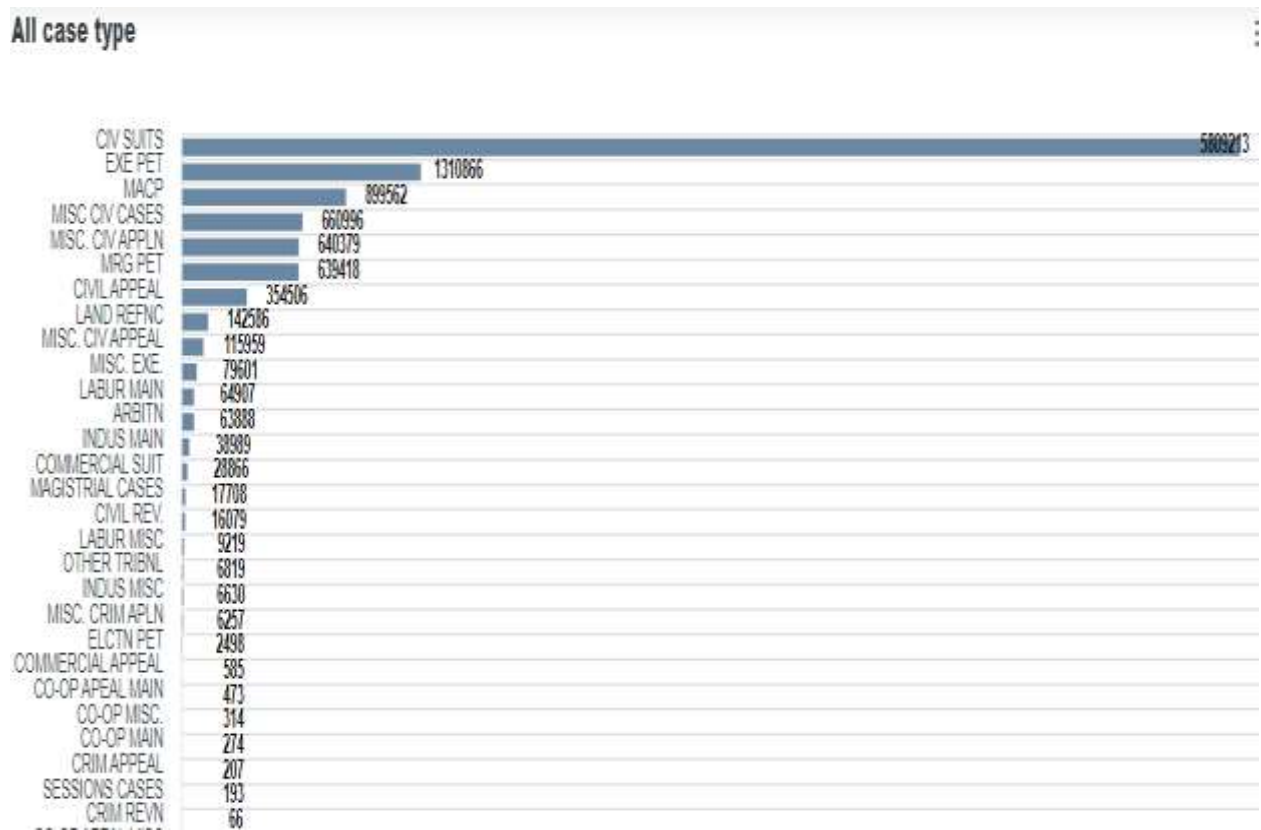


Figure-2- Bar chart of Pending Cases in Court.

Source-

https://njdg.ecourts.gov.in/njdg_v3//?p=home/index&state_code=&dist_code=&app_token=4f78d97607a72ebd0f9d52abe64957cc4aa991d8712ec659762a12ff04e6cb4f



Figure- 3-Age wise pending Cases in India

https://njdg.ecourts.gov.in/njdg_v3//?p=home/index&state_code=&dist_code=&app_token=4f78d97607a72ebd0f9d52abe64957cc4aa991d8712ec659762a12ff04e6cb4f

4.1. Despite these challenges, the reforms also present significant opportunities for transformation:

- **Technological Integration:** The implementation of e-courts, digital filing, and video conferencing in courtrooms can drastically reduce delays.
- **Judicial Education and Training:** The development of comprehensive training programs for judges and legal professionals can enhance the implementation of reforms.
- **Public Awareness:** Increased awareness of legal rights and the judicial process can encourage litigants to resolve cases more quickly.

5. Discussion

The potential for swift justice under the new laws is enormous, but it requires a holistic approach involving the proper implementation of legal infrastructure, the deployment of modern technology, and the training of judicial officers. Furthermore, while there are opportunities for legal reforms to streamline [18] the judicial process, political will, and resource allocation will play a crucial role in determining the success of these reforms. The paper argues that swift justice will depend not just on legal reforms but also on political and financial support. Opportunities exist in technological innovation, such as e-courts and digital

filing systems, which can significantly reduce delays. However, [17] successful implementation will require overcoming infrastructural limitations. The concept of swift justice, as envisioned by the new laws, can only be realized through the combined efforts of judicial reforms, infrastructural improvements, and the use of technology. The opportunity exists to streamline legal procedures and create a more efficient system. However, the transition from traditional [19] legal practices to modern, technology-driven methods is not without challenges. Resistance from within the legal community, lack of resources, and regional disparities in judicial infrastructure pose significant obstacles. The implementation of India's new criminal laws represents a critical step in the ongoing reform of the Indian justice [20] system, aiming for swift and efficient resolution of criminal cases. However, as with any large-scale reform, [21] the true success of these measures depends not only on their theoretical design but also on how they are practically applied within the context of India's diverse and complex legal landscape. The discussion here will address both the challenges and opportunities these reforms present, considering both structural and procedural aspects of the judicial system.

Foot Note- [1] Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India. (2024). "Pendency of Cases in Indian Courts." Available at:www.latestlaws.com
latestlaws.com.

5.1. Challenges of Implementation

1. Infrastructural Limitations

One of the most significant barriers to implementing the new criminal laws effectively is the lack of adequate infrastructure in the judicial system. As noted by **Sharma and Verma (2021)**, while technological advancements like e-courts are being implemented to ease case backlogs, many courts still lack the necessary infrastructure to fully embrace

these innovations. The lack of courtrooms, insufficient physical resources like computers and other technology tools, and poor internet connectivity in rural areas hamper the progress of digital justice systems. Without addressing these infrastructural gaps, the transition to faster legal proceedings will remain incomplete.

2. Manpower Shortage

India's judicial system is currently facing a severe shortage of judges. According to **Prasad (2021)**, the number of pending cases across Indian courts has been rising due

to the insufficient number of judicial officers. In many districts, the vacancy rate for judges can reach over 30%, which significantly impacts the timely disposal of cases. The new criminal laws, while promising [14] more efficient processes, cannot function optimally unless there is a substantial increase in the recruitment of judicial officers. Without adequate judicial manpower, delays will persist, hindering the goal of swift justice.

3. Resistance to Change

As with any reform, there is inherent resistance from within the system. **Desai (2020)** highlights that many legal professionals, especially older practitioners, are resistant to adopting new technologies and procedural changes. This reluctance to embrace digitalization and alternative dispute resolution methods can undermine the effectiveness of reforms. Additionally, the ingrained traditional ways of conducting trials, managing case files, and processing evidence pose substantial barriers to reform. Without overcoming these challenges, the expected benefits of the new criminal laws may be significantly delayed.

4. Regional Disparities

The application of the new criminal laws is not uniform across the country. India's judicial system is characterized by significant regional disparities in terms of resources, training, and access to technology. As **Kumar (2018)** points out, some states have made significant progress in implementing judicial reforms, while others are lagging behind. This uneven implementation means that the benefits of swift justice will not be equally distributed across the country, further complicating the aim of achieving uniform legal efficiency.

Foot Note- [2]. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). (2024). "Statistics on Pending Cases." Available at: www.njdg.in/latestlaws.com.

5.2. Opportunities for Reform

1. Technological Integration

The introduction of e-courts, video conferencing for hearings, and digital filing systems presents significant opportunities for expediting the criminal justice process. According to **Sharma and Verma (2021)**, technology can be a game-changer, particularly for

reducing delays in court proceedings. E-filing allows for quicker submission of documents and evidence, while virtual hearings reduce the time spent on physical hearings, especially in distant areas. If implemented correctly, these measures could drastically reduce the time required to process criminal cases, making justice more accessible and timely.

2. Streamlining Case Management

The new criminal laws emphasize better case management procedures, which can address the systemic issue of case backlog. According to **Chandra (2019)**, effective case management practices such as creating timelines for different stages of a trial and ensuring that procedural delays are minimized—can significantly reduce delays. By focusing on better scheduling of hearings, prioritizing cases based on their nature, and ensuring strict timelines, the criminal justice system can be made more efficient.

3. Judicial Training and Capacity Building

Training judges and legal practitioners in the latest reforms and technologies is crucial for the success of the new criminal laws. **Desai (2020)** argues that in addition to creating awareness among the public about the reforms, the judicial officers themselves must be equipped with the necessary skills to manage new case management systems, including digital platforms. Providing continuous training and professional development will help ensure that the judiciary adapts to the reforms effectively.

4. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mechanisms

The new criminal laws can benefit from greater integration of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms, such as mediation and arbitration, in appropriate cases. **Prasad (2021)** emphasizes that ADR can be particularly useful in resolving minor criminal cases and civil disputes related to criminal acts (such as defamation and family-related issues). This would help reduce the burden on regular courts, allowing them to focus on more serious criminal cases, thus increasing overall efficiency in the legal system.

Foot Note- [3]. Justice Delayed is Justice Denied: Issues & Solutions Pertaining to Pendency in Indian Judiciary. Kavisha Gupta. Published by *Latest Laws*. Available at: www.latestlaws.com
latestlaws.com

5. Public Awareness and Legal Literacy

Public awareness campaigns and increasing legal literacy are vital to ensuring that citizens understand their rights and how to access justice under the new criminal laws. **Kumar (2018)** suggests that many delays in the legal process arise due to the lack of knowledge about procedural steps and legal options available to litigants. Educating the public about the legal process can help streamline cases, encourage timely resolution, and ensure better engagement with the judicial system.

5.3. Proposed Solutions to Address Challenges

To address the aforementioned challenges, several measures need to be adopted:

- **Investment in Judicial Infrastructure:** The government must increase funding for the construction of new courtrooms and modern facilities, especially in rural areas. This investment should also include the provision of technological resources, such as computers, high-speed internet, and training modules for judicial officers.
- **Expansion of the Judicial Workforce:** A comprehensive plan for the recruitment and retention of judges, lawyers, and clerks is essential. This should include improving the working conditions of judges to prevent burnout and enhance their efficiency in dealing with cases.
- **Technology-Driven Solutions:** Expanding the use of AI and machine learning for case tracking, managing case [14]schedules, and predicting outcomes based on case history could significantly reduce human error and expedite the judicial process.
- **Inter-Regional Collaboration:** States with better-performing judicial systems should share best practices with lagging states. This could include technology transfer, judicial training programs, and sharing of data related to successful legal reforms.
- **Strengthening Legal Aid and ADR:** Encouraging the use of legal aid and alternative dispute resolution can reduce the burden on the formal criminal justice system. By promoting these methods, the legal system can address cases more efficiently and reduce the overall number of pending cases.

5.4. For the reforms to be successful, there needs to be a robust mechanism for implementing the changes, including:

1. **Increased Funding:** The government must allocate resources to build new courtrooms, recruit additional judges, and invest in judicial infrastructure.
2. **Digital Training Programs:** Judges and legal professionals need to be trained in modern case management tools to handle the digital shift effectively.

3. **Collaboration with Technology Providers:** The legal system must collaborate with technology companies to ensure the integration of efficient tools for managing cases and reducing delays.

The fundamental differences between the old and new criminal laws in India primarily lie in the approach, scope, and mechanisms for ensuring timely and effective justice.

5.5. The key differences are discussed below:

1. Speed of Justice and Timeliness:

- **Old Laws:** The previous system often faced significant delays due to procedural complexities, outdated practices, and insufficient use of technology. Cases took years to be decided, contributing to case backlogs.
- **New Laws:** The new criminal laws focus on reducing delays by introducing faster procedures, case management [9] techniques, and the use of technology. For instance, **e-courts** and **virtual hearings** are designed to ensure quicker resolutions, reducing the time taken for trial.

2. Technology Integration:

- **Old Laws:** The older criminal laws were largely paper-based and heavily relied on traditional methods of case filing, processing, and hearings. There was little emphasis on digitalization or automation.
- **New Laws:** The new reforms encourage the digitization of court records, online filing of cases, virtual hearings, and the use of **AI and data analytics** for case management. This technological shift aims to reduce manual errors and streamline the entire judicial process.

3. Legal Framework for Specific Crimes:

- **Old Laws:** Many of the old provisions, especially under the Indian Penal Code (IPC), were not fully equipped to handle modern criminal issues like cybercrime, organized crime, and terrorism in the digital age. There were gaps in dealing with crimes that have evolved due to technological advances.
- **New Laws:** The new laws provide specific provisions to address modern issues such as **cybercrimes**, **terrorism**, and **financial frauds**, which were inadequately covered in older laws. The amendments ensure that law enforcement and judiciary can better handle contemporary criminal activities.

4. Victim Protection and Rights:

- **Old Laws:** The older laws did not have sufficient mechanisms in place to protect victims, particularly in cases of domestic violence, sexual offenses, and harassment.
- **New Laws:** The newer criminal laws have a greater focus on victim rights. For example, they provide better mechanisms for protecting witnesses and victims, especially in sensitive cases like sexual assault. **Witness protection laws** have also been introduced to secure individuals who might be at risk due to their involvement in the judicial process.

5. Focus on Gender Justice:

- **Old Laws:** The older criminal laws were often criticized for not sufficiently addressing issues related to gender-based violence. The laws were seen as outdated and insensitive to the needs of women, especially in cases of sexual assault and domestic violence.
- **New Laws:** Gender justice [16] has been significantly strengthened with the introduction of **special provisions** for the protection of women, including stronger punishment for sexual offenses and better support for victims. **The Nirbhaya Act** (2013) introduced after the 2012 Delhi gang rape is an example of such reform, making punishment for sexual offenses more stringent.

6. Accountability and Transparency:

- **Old Laws:** The traditional criminal justice system faced criticism for its lack of transparency and accountability. It was difficult for citizens to access the status of their cases, and corruption within the system often hindered justice delivery.
- **New Laws:** With the introduction of measures like **public access to case information**, **e-filing**, and **digital hearings**, the new laws emphasize accountability and transparency. The new system aims to reduce corruption and ensure that the legal process is more accessible and visible to the public.

7. Sentencing and Punishments:

- **Old Laws:** Sentencing under the older criminal laws was often inconsistent, and the judicial system sometimes failed to impose punishments that were proportionate to the

crime. There were limited options for alternatives to incarceration, and the penalties did not always reflect the seriousness of modern criminal acts.

- **New Laws:** The new criminal laws incorporate more **proportional sentencing**, emphasizing harsher penalties for severe crimes and alternative sentences like community service for lesser offenses. The **Nirbhaya Act** and other reforms have introduced specific provisions for heinous crimes, ensuring that punishments are more in line with the nature of the crime.

8. Police and Investigation Reforms:

- **Old Laws:** Investigations under the old system were often slow and inefficient, due to lack of modern forensic techniques, poor training for officers, and outdated investigation procedures.
- **New Laws:** The new laws focus on **modernizing police procedures** and investigation techniques, incorporating better training and the use of advanced forensic tools, including **DNA analysis**, and encouraging faster and more efficient investigation practices.

5.6. key features of the new Indian criminal laws

The new Indian criminal laws, set to come into effect from July 1, 2024, under the *Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita* (BNS), represent a major overhaul of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and the Indian Evidence Act. Here are the key features:

1. **Consolidation of Criminal Law:** The BNS consolidates provisions of the IPC, repealing and amending various sections to make the law more comprehensive and modern. Several sections of the IPC have been renumbered and reorganized. For instance, murder now falls under Section 101, whereas cheating is covered under Section 316.
2. **New Offences:** The BNS introduces new offences, including provisions for organized crime, terrorism, and murder by a group on specific grounds. A significant change is that sedition is no longer an offence; instead, acts endangering India's sovereignty and integrity are criminalized.
3. **Expanded Forensic Investigations:** The new law mandates forensic investigation for crimes punishable with seven years or more of imprisonment. This will help strengthen evidence gathering in serious crimes.

4. **Electronic Trials:** The BNS allows trials, inquiries, and proceedings to be conducted electronically. This is in line with the modern trend to streamline the judicial process.
5. **Community Service as Punishment:** A new provision in the BNS introduces community service as an alternative form of punishment, expanding sentencing options.
6. **Revised Definitions of Mental Illness:** The BNS broadens the scope of what constitutes mental illness, now including substance abuse (like drug and alcohol addiction) while excluding mental retardation.
7. **Police Custody and Bail:** The *Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita* allows up to 15 days of police custody in certain cases, which could affect the granting of bail.
8. **Terrorism and Public Order:** The law also defines terrorism more broadly, including acts meant to intimidate public order, which could result in local disturbances being classified as terrorism.

5.7. Pendency of cases in India remains a significant challenge

The implementation of these laws is expected to significantly transform the criminal justice system in India, introducing more efficient processes, better evidence handling, and more comprehensive legal provisions to address contemporary challenges like organized crime and terrorism.

As of 2024, the pendency of cases in India remains a significant challenge. The total number of pending cases across various courts in the country is estimated to be over 4 crore, with a large number concentrated in lower courts. The Supreme Court and High Courts have also reported increasing numbers of pending cases. Some contributing factors to the backlog include inadequate judicial infrastructure, slow processing of cases, and procedural delays caused by frequent adjournments and complex legal procedures.

For example, in 2022, there were 3.67 crore cases pending in lower courts, with an average case pendency of about 3.18 years, and 20 lakh cases pending in High Courts with an average pendency of 5.47 years. Addressing these challenges will require a coordinated effort between the judiciary, government, and other stakeholders. If these reforms are successfully implemented, they could transform the criminal justice system, ensuring that justice is not only swift but also equitable and accessible to all citizens, irrespective of their geographic location or socio-economic background.

The new criminal law in India, which is set to take effect in 2024, promises significant changes in the administration of justice. As part of a major reform package, the *Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita* (BNS), along with the *Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita* (BNSS) and *Bharatiya Shakti Sanhita* (BSS), aims to modernize the criminal justice system by introducing several key provisions.

Key Provisions of the New Criminal Law:

1. **Streamlined Legal Framework:** The new laws consolidate and modernize provisions from the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), eliminating outdated laws while introducing more contemporary regulations, including new definitions of crimes like organized crime and terrorism.
2. **Forensic Science Integration:** A mandatory forensic analysis is now required in serious criminal cases, such as those involving murder or rape, which could significantly improve the quality of evidence in trials.
3. **Expanded Rights for Victims:** The new laws put a greater emphasis on the rights of victims, ensuring that they have access to timely justice. For example, provisions like victim compensation, victim support services, and specialized courts for sexual offenses aim to enhance the judicial process for victims.
4. **Bail and Custody Reforms:** The laws address the issue of prolonged detention, aiming to strike a balance between ensuring public safety and protecting individual rights. There are reforms in the bail system, reducing arbitrary detention by introducing a more transparent and accountable system.
5. **Public Order and National Security:** The laws redefine offenses related to public order, national security, and the sovereignty of India. For instance, sedition is no longer a standalone offense, and acts that threaten national integrity are now dealt with under more specific provisions.

S.N.	Description	IPC	BNS	CrPC	BNSS	IEA	BSA
1	Original number of sections	511	358	484	531	167	170
2	Sections inserted in old laws [within the original numbering scheme] through successive amendments	64	-	51	-	18	-
3	Number of sections repealed through successive amendments	21	-	-	-	1	-
4	Total number of sections in old laws immediately before 1 st July, 2024 [within the original numbering scheme]	554	-	535	-	184	-
5	Sections of old laws not included in new laws	19	-	11	-	4	-
6	Sections of old laws which are included in new laws	535	-	524	-	180	-
7	Sections of old laws included as individual sections in new laws	287	287	520	520	161	161
8	Contents of sections of old laws reorganised within individual sections of new laws	248	61	4	2	19	8
9	Newly added sections in new laws	-	10	-	9	-	1
10	Total number of sections in new laws	-	358	-	531	-	170

Table-1- Comparative statistics of the content along with reorganisation of chapters and sections in new criminal major Acts The table below presents the statistical comparative analysis of both sets of criminal major Acts in terms of individual section as a unit

Source-https://bprd.nic.in/uploads/pdf/1725273999_10c3ed6ede64b4c3cf6b.pdf

S.N.	Description	IPC	BNS
1.	Total number of offences	483	467
2.	Number of cognizable offences	314	297
3.	Number of non-cognizable offences	147	147
4.	Number of bailable offences	264	255
5.	Number of non-bailable offences	205	196
6.	Number of offences triable by Court of Session	105	118
7.	Number of offences triable by Magistrate of the first class	170	144
8.	Number of offences triable by Any Magistrate	172	166
9.	Number of offences compoundable by parties on their own	43	42
10.	Number of offences compoundable with permission of the Court	13	13
11.	Number of non-compoundable offences	427	412
12.	Number of cognizable offences punishable with imprisonment for a term less than seven years or which may extend to seven years	199	174
13.	Number of offences punishable with imprisonment for a term of seven years or more than seven years	102	117
14.	Number of offences punishable with imprisonment for a term of ten years or more than ten years	76	85
15.	Number of offences punishable with death penalty	13	16

Table--2-Comparative Statistics of offences stipulated under two substantive laws

Source- https://bprd.nic.in/uploads/pdf/1725273999_10c3ed6ede64b4c3cf6b.pdf The Indian Police Journal Vol. 71 No. 1 & 2 January-June, 2024

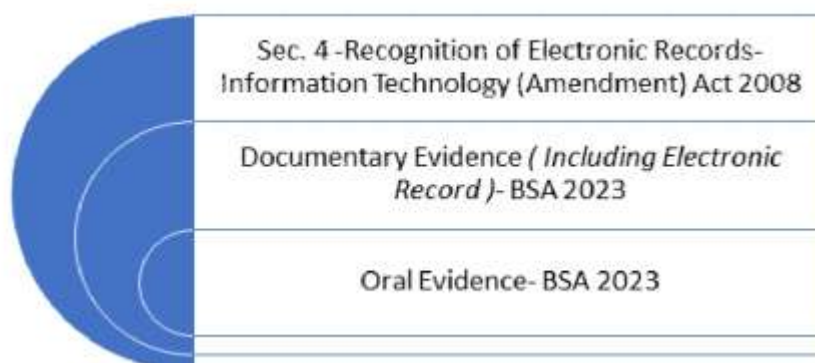


Figure- 4- Inclusion of Electronic Evidence,Source- https://bprd.nic.in/uploads/pdf/1725273999_10c3ed6ede64b4c3cf6b.pdf The Indian Police Journal Vol. 71 No. 1 & 2 January-June, 2024

5.8. Future Impacts:

1. **Improved Efficiency:** One of the key benefits expected from these reforms is the speedier delivery of justice. By incorporating technology, streamlining processes, and mandating timelines for case disposal, the system aims to reduce the pendency of cases, a persistent issue in India's judiciary.
2. **Balancing Rights and Security:** While the law introduces stronger measures for combating terrorism and organized [18] crime, there is a concern that these might infringe on civil liberties. Ensuring that the law is used effectively while safeguarding fundamental rights will be critical.
3. **Judicial Overload:** Despite the structural reforms, the success of the new laws will largely depend on judicial capacity. The country's courts are already overloaded with cases, and the implementation of these laws will require sufficient resources, including more judges, better infrastructure, and faster case management.
4. **Challenges in Implementation:** The new criminal laws will require intensive training for law enforcement officers, judicial staff, and lawyers to ensure consistent and fair application across all regions. Any gaps in training or lack of resources may lead to challenges in the smooth implementation of these laws.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, India's new criminal laws hold promise for transforming the criminal justice system by providing a framework for swift justice. While challenges persist, there are significant opportunities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the justice system. The future of criminal law in India depends largely on the successful implementation of these reforms, the continuous training of judicial officers, and the use of technology to expedite trials. India's new criminal laws represent a promising shift towards faster justice. While challenges persist, particularly concerning infrastructure and training, the reforms provide significant opportunities to improve the legal process. The paper concludes that these changes could have transformative effects on the criminal justice system if adequately supported by the government and judicial bodies. India's new criminal laws represent a significant step toward achieving swift justice. While the reforms hold the potential to streamline the legal process, their success depends on effective implementation and sustained efforts to address systemic challenges. The potential benefits, including reduced case backlogs, faster trials, and improved public trust in the legal system, can be realized if the government invests in infrastructure, judicial training, and technological innovation. The implementation of India's new criminal

laws presents both significant opportunities and challenges. On one hand, the introduction of technology, the potential for better case management, and the integration of ADR mechanisms provide the foundation for faster and more accessible justice. On the other hand, infrastructural deficiencies, the shortage of judges, and regional disparities pose formidable obstacles to the reform process. In conclusion, the new criminal laws represent a significant step forward for the Indian legal system, aiming to address both contemporary challenges and long-standing issues like judicial delays. However, successful implementation will depend on a coordinated effort across all levels of the judicial system, from law enforcement to courts.

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Abbreviations

IPC: Indian Penal Code

CrPC: Code of Criminal Procedure

IEA: Indian Evidence Act

NCRB: National Crime Records Bureau

SC: Supreme Court of India

HC: High Court

FIR: First Information Report

PIL: Public Interest Litigation

NITI Aayog: National Institution for Transforming India

ADR: Alternate Dispute Resolution

NHRC: National Human Rights Commission

CJI: Chief Justice of India

DOJ: Department of Justice

RTI: Right to Information

PDS: Public Distribution System

NCW: National Commission for Women

CBI: Central Bureau of Investigation

MHA: Ministry of Home Affairs

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24. Conflict of Interest

The Authors declare no Conflicts of interest

