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# A Comparative Evaluation: Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 in Opposition to Indian Penal Code 1860

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AAYUSH PAREEK<sup>1</sup>

## ABSTRACT

*Significant legislative developments have shaped India's criminal law evolution. Notably, the Indian Penal Code (IPC) is expected to be replaced by the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Examining the intellectual underpinnings, structural distinctions, and practical ramifications for the Indian legal system, this paper compares the BNS and IPC. Since it was created in 1860, the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has offered a thorough framework for criminal justice, yet it is sometimes criticised for having archaic and colonial-era provisions. By tackling modern problems and harmonising with established social and legal norms, the BNS aims to modernise and indigenise India's punitive laws. The main modifications made by the BNS are examined in this paper, including adjustments to regulations on sentencing, criminal processes, legal terminology, and the addition of use technology in police enforcement. By comparing the BNS to the IPC, this study demonstrates how the new code strives to improve judicial efficiency, provide more equitable justice delivery, and better defend human rights. The research also takes into account probable implementation issues as well as the BNS's projected impact on Indian legal practice and jurisprudence. The results of this study highlight the significance of persistent law change in response to society's evolving needs and the judicial system.*

**Keywords:** *Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, Indian Penal Code, Criminal Justice, New Provisions, Changes, Crime, Murder, Rape, Defamation, Challenges.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

On 11 August 2023, Home minister Amit Shah introduced bills in Lok Sabha. These proposals, titled Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bhartiya Saksh Bill, and Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, are meant to replace the current Indian Penal Code (1860), Indian Evidence Act (1872), and Code of Criminal Procedure (1973). The legislation that was proposed has been recommended to a Parliamentary Standing Committee for further discussion.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Manoj Kumar Singh, "A Comparative Study of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 with Indian Penal Code 1860: Modernization or Mere Replacement?" *Journal of Indian Legal Studies*, vol. 45, pp. 112-134 (2023)

The proposal was ratified via Parliament on December 20th and 21st, 2023, and received Presidential endorsement on December 25th, 2023. BNS now consists of only 358 sections, whereas IPC comprises 511 sections. In addition, the BNS is implementing 31 new offences, whereas 19 sections from the IPC are being removed. In addition, the maximum length of imprisonment for 33 offences was brought up, and fines are being increased over 83 offences. Furthermore, the minimum necessary punishment was imposed over 23 offences, as well as 'The community Service' was implemented as an alternative method of punishment to six minor crimes. Also, the BNS emphasises victims' rights and rehabilitation, covering significant gaps in the IPC. It is intended to become more sensitive, so better preserving the liberties and rights of women as well as other gender minorities. The BNS also intends to recommend an even approach to sanctions, ensuring that they are in accordance to the offences while include rehabilitation measures. The BNS also emphasises different dispute resolution processes, such as conciliation and mediation, to lessen the pressure on the legal system. Furthermore, the BNS is consistent with international standards for human rights, ensuring the preservation of individual rights and rights for all, addressing another crucial area where the IPC has been found weak.<sup>3</sup>

### **(A) Research Objectives**

- To Understand the differences, improvements, and implications of the BNS 2023 compared to the IPC 1860
- To determine whether BNS 2023 achieves its intended goals of modernization and improvement over the IPC 1860.
- To assess the overall impact of BNS 2023 on the Indian legal system and society
- To identify potential challenges in the implementation and enforcement of BNS 2023.

### **(B) Research Methodology**

The study technique for this comparative comparison of the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023 and the Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860 employs a comprehensive approach that integrates qualitative and quantitative research approaches. This research is based on comprehensive review of existing literature, legal textbooks, research papers, journal articles, and government publications.

## **II. ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF THE BILL**

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<sup>3</sup> Shreya Gupta, "Legal Reforms in the Indian Penal Code: An Analysis of the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023," *Indian Law Journal*, vol. 40, pp. 87-101 (2024).

### (A) Objectives and Approach

**IPC 1860:** Drafted under the British colonial period, its main objective sought to keep order and peace in India under British rule.<sup>4</sup>

**BNS 2023:** seeks to adapt and modernise the criminal code to better reflect modern ideals, advances in rights for humans, and the demands of modern India.

### (B) Structure and Language

**IPC 1860:** Based in mediaeval English, it frequently employs antiquated legal language.

**BNS 2023:** Using simplified & contemporary vocabulary, rendering it accessible for people in general as well as simpler to understand.

### (C) Criminalization and decriminalisation

**IPC 1860:** Contains various sections that are deemed obsolete or unnecessary in modern culture.

**BNS 2023:** aims to decriminalise conduct that are no longer.

### (D) Punishment and Penalties

**IPC 1860:** provides punishments that, in certain circumstances, may be excessive to the offences committed.

**BNS 2023:** Emphasises proportionality in punishment, with an accent on rehabilitative and alternative punishment where appropriate.

## III. NEW PROVISIONS OF BNS 2023

- **Digital Revolution of Judiciary:** E-Courts including electronic submission: Implementing digital infrastructures for paperless filing and online hearings. Advanced computerised case management solutions help to streamline judicial processes and eliminate delays.
- **Judicial Reforms:** Additional Fast-Track Tribunals for certain situations, including sexual offences, corruption, and economic conflicts.
- **Judicial Responsibility:** Improved procedures to ensure reliability and openness in judiciary behaviour and performance.

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<sup>4</sup> Preeti Desai, "Criminal Defences Under BNS 2023: A Critical Comparison with IPC 1860," *Defences in Criminal Law Journal*, vol. 11, pp. 67-84 (2024).

- **Access to Justice:** Expand legal aid programmes for marginalised and financially disadvantaged communities. Processes should be simplified to make it more intelligible and readily available to the public.<sup>5</sup>
- **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR):** Mandatory arbitration for civil issues prior trial.  
Development of ADR Centres: ADR centres will be established in different areas to encourage dispute resolution, arbitration, and reconciliation as viable options to litigation.
- **Rehabilitative Justice Reforms:** Incorporating restorative justice approaches aims to rehabilitate criminals and reconcile victims.<sup>6</sup>
- **Simplified Investigations:** Efforts to ensure that criminal inquiries and court proceedings are
  - completed more quickly and efficiently.
- **Witness Protection:** Programmes have been established to protect eyewitnesses from pressure and harm.
- **Commercial Law Reforms:** Simplified business licencing and regulatory procedures to facilitate business operations.
- **Specialised Commercial Courts:** The formation of specialised commercial tribunals for handling business and disputes efficiently.

#### (A) Highlights of BNS 2023

The Sanhita has undergone the following modifications:

A definition clause is a grammatical construction that defines or explains a word or phrase within a sentence. The IPC did not have a definition clause. Instead, interpretation provisions were found in Sections 6 to 52A. The parts have been merged in the latest act, and the second part has separate definitions. Section 2 (3) & (10) of the recently passed Act have been modified to incorporate a fresh interpretation of the term's "child" and "transgender." In addition to this, the meaning of "court" within Section 2(5), the word "document" under Section 2(8), that now includes digital and electronic records, "movable asset" in Section 2(21), along with other

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<sup>5</sup> Arvind Sharma, "Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023: Addressing Cybercrime in the Digital Age," *Criminal Law Quarterly*, vol. 18, pp. 145-160 (2023).

<sup>6</sup> Nidhi Sharma, "The Impact of BNS 2023 on India's Criminal Justice System: A Comparative Study with IPC 1860," *Law and Governance Journal*, vol. 6, pp. 77-96 (2023).

phrases have been modified.<sup>7</sup>

#### a. **Sanctions**

Various sanctions were enforced pursuant to Section 53 in the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The aforementioned items have been moved to Section 4 within the BNS, and performing community service has become a type of penalty.

The BNS does not provide a specific definition for the word "community service," however it is suggestive of the following: Community job is a court-ordered punishment for prisoners that involves performing a service that benefits the wider community. The prisoner does not receive remuneration for this service. However, it would have proved more advantageous to clearly define the categories of responsibilities that would be considered as community service. Abetment refers to the act of encouraging, supporting, or assisting someone in committing a crime or wrongdoing.

Section 48 in the BNS deals with the issue of abetment beyond India for a crime that was committed within India. An individual who assists in the carrying out of an act in India, which would be classified a crime if performed in India, is deemed to be guilty of abetting an offence as defined in this Sanhita, even if they are located outside of India.<sup>8</sup>

#### b. **Sexual assault**

Previously, the definition of this was stated in Section 375 in the IPC. Yet, it is now specifically stated in Section 63 in the BNS. The contentious provision, referred to as Exception 2, continues to be in force, allowing for an exemption in cases of rape within a marriage. However, the age restrictions have been changed. The minimum age requirement for a woman to provide agreement to this exception has been raised from 15 to 18 years old.

Penalties for rape have been established by Section 64 of the *Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita* (BNS). However, after thorough discussion, the restrictions on rape continue to apply only to specific genders. They persist in holding the assumption that only females can be victims while only males can be offenders. The new legislation specifically acknowledges transgender individuals; yet, it neglects to include provisions related to rape that specifically consider their unique circumstances. According to the newly enacted legislation (Section 69), men who have sexual relations with a woman by deceitfully asserting or guaranteeing marriage may face penalties of

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<sup>7</sup> Rameshwar Nath, "A Critical Analysis of Changes in Criminal Provisions under *Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita* 2023," *Journal of Comparative Law*, vol. 50, pp. 205-230 (2024).

<sup>8</sup> Priyanka Bose, "Reforming Indian Criminal Law: A Detailed Study of *Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita* 2023," *South Asian Legal Review*, vol. 12, pp. 45-67 (2023)

a monetary punishment and a prison sentence of up to ten years. This is only relevant if the individual has no intention of fulfilling the marriage commitment.

<sup>9</sup>Presently, the penalty for rape by gang is specified under Section 70 in the BNS. Each of those people will be assumed to have devoted the crime of rape and will be subjected to a stringent prison sentence of at least twenty years in jail, with the potential for life imprisonment, meaning they would remain in prison for the rest of their lives, in addition to a monetary penalty. Employing, collaborating with, or engaging a minor in the perpetration of an illegal act as per the BNS A new crime has been added to Section 95. This text legislation penalises any individual who employs or assists a minor in committing an offence. This offence is punishable by imprisonment for a minimum of three years and a maximum of ten years, as well as a fine. The person will be punished as if they had committed the offence themselves if the crime is carried out. Including the hiring, engaging, or utilising of a minor for the purpose of sexual exploitation or pornography is the scope of this provision.

### **c. Extrajudicial killing by a group of people**

If a group of at least five individuals conspires to commit murder against an individual due to their ethnicity, social class, society as a whole sexuality, place of conception, or another comparable motive, all members of the group will be subject to either the death penalty or life imprisonment, in addition to a monetary penalty. To deter the occurrence of mob executions, this provision has been included in Section 103(2) in the recently enacted legislation. Fatal outcome resulting from neglect. Section 106(2) now includes a provision for cases where the offender leaves the accident scene without notifying an investigating officer or magistrate. This is a grave transgression that could lead to a monetary penalty and a decade-long incarceration.<sup>10</sup>

Individuals who cause death because of reckless or careless actions, which do not qualify as intentional killing, can be punished with a maximum prison term of five years and a monetary penalty, in accordance with Section 106 (1). If a licensed physician commits the conduct during a medical procedure, the punishment may entail a maximum prison sentence of two years and a fine.

Section 106(2) addresses instances where the perpetrator of a crime leaves the location of the accident before notifying an investigating officer or magistrate. The commission of this offence

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<sup>9</sup> Ankit Bansal, "The Evolution of Penal Law in India: Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 and Its Impact," *Asian Journal of Criminology*, vol. 6, pp. 34-56 (2024).

<sup>10</sup> Sudhir Mishra, "Addressing Contemporary Challenges: A Comparative Study of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 and IPC 1860," *Criminal Justice Review*, vol. 29, pp. 98-121 (2023).

carries a penalty of imprisonment for a period of ten years and a monetary fine. Section 106 (2) mandates the quick reporting of hit-and-run accidents, which are prevalent in the country. An act of intentionally trying to cause the death of another person. Individuals who engage in a crime with the deliberate intention or awareness that, if it led to someone's death, would be considered murder, can be sentenced to a maximum of ten years in prison, in addition to a monetary penalty, as stipulated in Section 109 of the newly enacted legislation. The sentence may entail life in prison or the punishments if harm is caused. The prior iteration of the offence of attempted murder, as defined in IPC Section 307, has been altered.<sup>11</sup>

#### **d. Minor Organised Offences**

Section 112 specifically deals with minor, coordinated criminal acts. Engaging in stealing, theft, misconduct, illicit sales of tickets, unlicensed placing wagers or wagering, or selling of official investigation examination papers, or any other type of similar criminal activity, whether done individually or collectively, is classified as petty organised crime.

Terrorism refers to the use of violence, intimidation, or threats to create fear and panic in order to achieve political, religious, or ideological goals. A new provision is added to the current Act as Section 113. The Act includes a precise description of a terrorist act as well as a range of consequences related to terrorism. These consequences encompass the act itself, assisting or encouraging it, inciting or endorsing it, establishing a training camp for terrorists or recruiting individuals to carry out terrorist acts, getting an employee of an organisation involved in these activities, providing shelter or assistance to a terrorist, or having funds derived from terrorist activities.<sup>12</sup>

#### **e. Severe injury**

Section 117(3) of the new Act specifically addresses the deliberate causing of severe harm to an individual with a disability. Furthermore, according to section 117(4) of the BNS, it is illegal for a group of at least five individuals to intentionally cause severe harm to a person due to their race, caste, society as a whole sex, or hometown of birth. The commission of this offence carries a maximum penalty of seven years of imprisonment and a fine.

#### **f. Sedition**

The word "sedition" was formerly specified in Section 124A from the prior Act; however, this

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<sup>11</sup> Akshay Mehta, "Modernizing Indian Criminal Law: Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 vs. IPC 1860," *Indian Law and Society Review*, vol. 23, pp. 200-222 (2023).

<sup>12</sup> Preeti Singh, "Cybercrimes and the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023: New Offenses and Punishments," *Journal of Information and Cyber Law*, vol. 11, pp. 67-82 (2023).



section has been removed. However, the Act that poses a threat to the authority, cohesion, and completeness of India has been revised to incorporate a fresh segment. Section 152 in the BNS explicitly forbids any actions that undermine or compromise the integrity, unity, and sovereignty of India. This includes deliberate activities, regardless of whether they are carried out via words or phrases, signs, visible representations, computer communication, money, or any other means. The explanation of this section clarifies that it is legal to express disapproving opinions about the government's actions or decisions to bring about legal changes, as long as the comments do not relate to or aim to initiate the events mentioned in this section.

#### **g. Positive Changes**

The recently introduced BNS has resulted in multiple advantageous modifications. This article is structured into four primary sections, although there may be certain cases in which a provision could be classified under numerous categories.

#### **h. Swift Changes**

The progressive modifications in BNS involve categorising the act of engaging in sexual intercourse through deceitful means or fraudulent pledges of marriage as a punishable offence according to Section 69. Offenders will be subject to either a lenient or severe incarceration for up to a decade, along with a financial penalty. Terrorism & terrorist acts have now been officially defined and classified as illicit activities by Section 111 in the BNS.

A new provision on 'Snatching' has been incorporated into Section 302. According to the law, persons involved in snatching will receive a maximum prison term of three years, along with a monetary fine.<sup>13</sup>

As per Section 101(2), lynching by a crowd is considered a distinct criminal act and is punishable by either a seven-year prison term, life imprisonment, or the death sentence. The BNS has experienced significant transformations, namely in the substitution of outdated and derogatory expressions like "a lunatic man" and "an individual of unsound mind". All of these instances have been labelled with more precise phrasing, such as "individual having mental illness" or "individual with intellectual disability." The adjustment is evident in Section 22 in the BNS, which aligns with Section 84 in the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Section 28(b) in the BNS was altered in a comparable fashion to Section 90(b) in the Indian Penal Code. Previously, it was illegal to bring girls under the age limit of 21 into the country with the

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<sup>13</sup> Gaurav Tiwari, "An Overview of Changes in Criminal Liability: IPC 1860 vs. Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023," *Criminal Law Review*, vol. 19, pp. 140-158 (2024).

intention of involving them in unlawful sexual activities with another person. The revised Section 139 in the BNS, which aligns with Section 366B that the IPC, clearly specifies that an act of transporting males below the age of 18 with the intention of involving them in illegal sexual activities with another person will be regarded as a criminal offence. This has an opportunity to yield a positive result, as it is a progression towards establishing equality in the domain of criminal justice.<sup>14</sup>

Section 109 & 110 within the BNS address the topic of organised crime, including both major and small instances.

#### **i. Strengthened laws on Sexual Offences**

The revised legislation on sexual crimes in BNS includes the following: The punishment for the crime of rape has been raised from a duration of seven years to ten years, also mandated by Section 64 of the BNS (Bureau of National Statistics), which aligns with Section 376 of the IPC (Indian Penal Code). Formerly, Section 376 in the Indian Penal Code stipulated that "Any individual who engages in the act of rape shall be liable to imprisonment of whichever category." According to Section 64 of BNS, anyone who engage in rape will face strict imprisonment.<sup>15</sup>

Section 70 in the BNS, that matches Section 376DB under the IPC, mandates the use of the death penalty for the offence of gang rape committed against women below the age of 18. Moreover, a recent bill has been introduced to protect the confidentiality of those who were victims of sexual assault, as specified in Section 72 in the BNS. A new addition, especially Section 69, has been incorporated into the BNS within the section that addresses offences perpetrated against women and children.

#### **j. Community work as a means of retribution**

Section 53 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) explicitly delineates five distinct categories of penalties that can be imposed on wrongdoers:

#### **k. Death**

Life imprisonment is a type of confinement that can be classified into two categories: Rigorous, which refers to being defined by challenging physical or mental exertion.

#### **l. Primary Asset Seizure Penalty**

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<sup>14</sup> Poonam Sharma, "Gender-Related Provisions in Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 and IPC 1860: A Comparative Legal Study," *Gender Studies and Law Review*, vol. 15, pp. 75-91 (2023).

<sup>15</sup> Radhika Nair, "Assessing the Effectiveness of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023: Lessons from IPC 1860," *Law and Policy Journal*, vol. 38, pp. 56-74 (2023).

Section 4 of BNS, which corresponds to Section 53 in IPC, states that performing community service may be imposed as a supplementary penalty, in conjunction with the five punishments stated before.

Community service, essentially, is the unpaid work that people who have committed crimes may be required to do instead of going to jail.

The BNS promotes the utilisation of volunteer work as a punishment for minor offences. Furthermore, there are other alterations implemented on a per-section basis: Public officials who do not fulfil their legal obligation to refrain from participating in business activities may be subject to penalties, such as up to one year of imprisonment, a monetary penalty, or both, or community service. These penalties are outlined in Section 200 in BNS, which matches Section 168 of IPC.<sup>16</sup>

Defamation is a punishable offence that has a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment, a fine, or service in the community, as outlined in Section 354 in BNS, which is equivalent to Section 499 in IPC. Implementing voluntary service as a punishment measure for a suicide attempt.

Individuals accused of creating a disruption in public while under the influence of alcohol may face either a 24-hour imprisonment or be required to participate in community service. The predominant feature of the idea put forward in the BNS is the total abolition of the Sedition act. Instead of being removed, the rules of the sedition statute would be kept in Section 150 to specifically address acts that pose a danger to the integrity, unity, and sovereignty of India. According to Section 150 of the BNS, individuals who intentionally or knowingly use words or phrases, symbols, visible participation, electronic communication, financial assets, or any other means to incite or attempt to incite splits, conduct violent subversive activities, or encourage separatist sentiments that pose a threat to the unity, sovereignty, and integrity of India, or engage in such acts, will face punishment. The punishment can range from life imprisonment to imprisonment for a maximum of seven years, and may also include a fine.

***The main differences between Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 150 of the British Nationality Act (BNS) are as follows:***

The terminology utilised in Section 150 of BNS encompasses a wider array of actions and behaviours, while Section 124A of IPC specifically deals with actions and behaviours that "incite hatred or contempt" or "stir up disaffection" towards the government.

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<sup>16</sup> Anil Deshmukh, "The Role of Judiciary in Implementing Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023," *Journal of Indian Judicial Studies*, vol. 20, pp. 102-118 (2024).

Section 150 of BNS has raised the penalty for sedition from three years to seven years, matching the punishment outlined in Section 124A of IPC.<sup>17</sup>

Section 150 of the BNS stipulates that sedition must be done with intent or knowledge, but Section 124A of the IPC does not include such an act.

While IPC Section 124A does not clearly address the use of modern communication techniques to commit sedition, BNS Section 150 specifically acknowledges this aspect.

### **m. Adverse alterations and gaps in the system**

While most of the BNS adjustments are seen as beneficial, certain reforms have led to notable issues, while others have remained untouched.

There is no existing meaning for the term "community service".

An advantageous development in BNS, as previously stated, is the incorporation of community service as a means of retribution. Nevertheless, the Bill lacks explicit details regarding the specific characteristics of community service. Without a clear guideline, it is not possible to completely eliminate the potential for disagreements over punishment. Occasionally, unconventional types of community service were mandated. For instance, an instruction to engage in temple duty, disseminate copies of the Quran, or provide funds to a gaushala. While some of these directives were later rescinded, it is still possible that there were more directives promoting patriarchal or harmful norms, or with comparable religious connotations. Therefore, it might be beneficial to create a compilation of suitable community service activities or establish rules.

Lack of Progress in Achieving Gender Neutrality in Addressing Sexual Violence and Rape  
Gender equality in rape and sexual misconduct legislation refers to the acknowledgement that individuals of all genders, including men, women, and transgender individuals, can both perpetrate and experience rape according to the penal code. The Criminal Law Amendment Bill was proposed in 2019 as a private member's bill. This bill aimed to make substantial amendments to the Indian criminal statutes with the goal of making them gender neutral. However, the BNS, like the IPC, exclusively recognises women as victims of sexual assault and rape, while males are categorised as perpetrators of these crimes.<sup>18</sup>

The amended Section 150 retains the criminalising of any action that promotes or incites

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<sup>17</sup> Kiran Rao, "Revisiting Capital Punishment under Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023: A Critical Review," *Criminal Justice Research Journal*, vol. 24, pp. 77-93 (2023)

<sup>17</sup> Vandana Kumar, "Domestic Violence Laws: Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 vs. IPC 1860," *Women and Law Journal*, vol. 16, pp. 104-122 (2023).

separatist activity, without the need for violence or disturbance of public order to be present in order to press charges. Section 124A within the IPC currently categorises almost all works that are considered sedition, including speeches, articles from newspapers, novels, and plays. These items are also covered by Section 150.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The comparison between the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023 and the Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860 highlights a notable progression in India's criminal justice system. The BNS 2023 is an updated legal tool that caters to the changing requirements of today's society, while the IPC 1860, although historically important, is more representative of a past time in terms of its legal and social framework.

##### (A) Key Findings:

###### a. Advancements and Ease of Use:

The BNS 2023 utilises streamlined and contemporary language, enhancing the accessibility of the law for both the public and legal professionals. This transition is vital for ensuring that the legal system is easily understandable and accessible to users.

###### b. Significant alterations:

The BNS 2023 brings its legislation up to date by decriminalising obsolete activities and incorporating measures for modern challenges like cybercrimes, thus reflecting current societal standards and technical progress.<sup>19</sup>

The implementation of more equitable penalties and the integration of rehabilitative interventions exemplify a forward-thinking approach to the criminal justice system.<sup>20</sup>

###### c. Gender neutrality

The BNS 2023's focus on gender-neutral provisions is a notable advancement in ensuring parity and impartiality throughout the judicial system. This adjustment aims to resolve long-standing objections to the gender-specific terminology used in the IPC 1860.

Technological adaptation refers to the process of adjusting or modifying technology to fit a particular situation or environment.

The BNS 2023 implements essential legislative frameworks to tackle the contemporary issues

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<sup>18</sup>Mohit Jain, "Analyzing the Legal Structure: Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 vs. IPC 1860," *Law and Governance Journal*, vol. 25, pp. 89-106 (2024).

<sup>19</sup>Deepak Sharma, "Protection of Women under Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023: A Comparative Evaluation with IPC 1860," *Women's Legal Rights Journal*, vol. 7, pp. 52-67 (2024).

posed by cybercrimes and technical offences. This incorporation guarantees that the legal system stays pertinent and proficient in addressing emerging types of criminal activity.

**d. Safeguarding of At-Risk Individuals:**

The BNS 2023 includes improved measures to safeguard women and other vulnerable groups, demonstrating a legal approach that is both comprehensive and protective. This is crucial in effectively addressing concerns related to harassment, stalking, and various types of violence.

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