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Highlights of the new criminal laws

- Various innovations have been introduced in three new Acts namely Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adiniyam to simplify the common man's path to justice based on British era laws.

Electronic method

- Online filing of complaints with the police department, sending of summons electronically, mandatory video recording of evidence collection at crime scenes.

FIR

- Under the new laws, victims or complainants will get a free copy of the First Information Report (FIR).
- This will ensure their participation in legal proceedings. Similarly in any case a person has the right to inform those close to him about his situation without being arrested. This will ensure immediate support and assistance for him.

Copy

- Arrest details are readily available at police stations and district headquarters. Similarly, the accused and the victim have the right to get copies of the FIR, police report, charge sheet, statements and other documents within 14 days.

Forensic experts

- To strengthen the case and investigation of heinous crimes, forensic experts are mandated to visit crime scenes and collect evidence.

Women and children

- The new laws insist on ensuring that investigations are completed within two months of the first information report, giving priority to crimes against women and children.
- Victims are entitled to receive continuous updates on the progress of their case within 90 days to improve transparency and credibility.
- Free first aid or medical treatment at all hospitals for victims of crimes against women and children is also guaranteed by the act.
- For certain offenses against women, the procedure for recording by vote of the victim should be carried out by a woman magistrate as far as possible.
- Court summonses can now be served electronically.
- Courts allow a maximum of 2 adjournments to avoid unnecessary delay in trials and ensure timely delivery of justice.
- The new laws mandate all state governments to implement a witness protection program to ensure the safety and cooperation of witnesses and improve the credibility and effectiveness of legal proceedings.
- To promote equality, the definition of 'gender' now includes heterosexuality.

Historic win

- Even though we had to wait 24 years after 1983 and 4 years after 2007 and now 13 years to win the World Cup, each win was a different boost for India.
- The players and cricket fans around the world were in a flood of excitement when India won the T20 World Cup at the Kensington Oval in Barbados.
- India has now won the ICC trophy for the fifth time. Under Kapil Dev in 1983 and Dhoni in 2011 in ODI World Cups,
- India has won the T20 World Cup under Dhoni in 2007, now under Rohit, and the Champions Trophy under Dhoni in 2013.
- 20 teams participated in the World Cup tournament including Namibia, Nepal, Scotland, Ireland, Uganda, Oman, Papua New Guinea etc.

New criminal laws enforced from today

- As an alternative to the Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and Indian Evidence Act which were implemented during the British rule in the country, the Central Government has enacted the Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhineeyam.

Zero FIR

- In this, through Zero First Information Report, a case can be registered at any station, not just the police station of the place where a crime took place.
- Zero First Information Report (FIR), online filing of complaints with police department, sending summons like SMS, electronic means
- The new laws are said to introduce a modern justice system that includes mandatory video recording of crime scenes for all serious crimes.

Judgment in 45 days

- According to the new criminal laws, judgments in criminal cases must be delivered within 45 days of the completion of court proceedings.
- Similarly, charges should be filed within 60 days from the date of first court hearing in those cases.
- According to these laws, the statement of women victims of sexual violence will be taken by a woman police officer in the presence of their guardians.
- Reports of the medical examination conducted on those women should be provided within a week.
- Further, child trafficking has been made a capital offence, death penalty or life imprisonment for those who sexually assault a minor under the age of 18.