

**Bill No. 250 of 2022**

**THE JOURNALIST (PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AND  
DAMAGE OR LOSS TO THE PROPERTY) BILL, 2022**

By

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN, M.P.

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*to provide for prevention of violence against journalists and protection of journalists, their institutions, properties and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-third year of Republic of India as follows:—

**1.** (1) This Act may be called the Journalist (Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss to the Property) Act, 2022.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

5 (3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Short title,  
extent and  
commencement.

Definitions.	2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—	
	(a) “journalist” means a person whose principal avocation is that of a journalist and who is employed as such, either whole-time or part-time, in, or in relation to a visual or print media establishment, such as editor, a leader writer, news-editor, sub-editor, feature-writer, copy-tester, reporter, correspondent, cartoonist, news-photographer, news reader, news videographer but does not include any such person who is employed mainly in a managerial or administrative capacity;	5
	(b) “institutions” includes any registered newspaper establishment, news channel establishment, news based electronic media establishment or news station establishment and all institutions of Journalist involved in discharge of his service as a Journalist;	10
	(c) “offenders” means a person who either by himself or as a Member or Leader of group of persons commits or attempt to commit, abate, provoke or incite the commission of violence under this Act;	
	(d) “property” means any property movable or immovable, owned or in possession of or under the control of any journalist or any Institution for discharging his service or duty as a journalist; and	15
	(e) “violence” means an act which causes any harm, injury or endanger of life or intimidation, obstruction or harassment or coercion or assault of criminal force or threat to journalist in discharge of his service or duties or causes to be the reason for damage or loss to the property or reputation of a journalist or an institution.	20
Violence against journalist to be punishable.	3. Whoever commits violence against a journalist shall be punished with imprisonment for one year or with imprisonment of either description of a term which shall not be less than one year and which may extend upto three years and shall also be liable to pay fine.	
Compensation.	4. In addition to the punishment specified under section 3, the offender shall be liable to pay compensation for damage or loss caused to the property of journalist or any Institution as may be determined by the Court and he shall also be liable to reimburse medical expenditure incurred by the journalist:	25
	Provided that if the offenders fails to pay the compensation and medical expenditure imposed, the same shall be recovered as if it were arrears of land revenue.	
Cognizance of offence.	5. Any offence committed under this Act shall be cognizable non-bailable and triable by the Court of Judicial Magistrate of First Class.	30
Investigation.	6. Any case registered under section 3 shall be investigated by a Police Officer not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police in such manner as may be prescribed.	
Act to supplement other laws.	7. The provision of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of provisions of any other law for the time being in force.	35
Application of Code of Criminal Procedure.	8. The provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Act No. 2 of 1974) shall apply to the proceedings as per the provisions of the Act.	
Power to make rules.	9. (1) The Central Government shall after taking consent of the Bar Council of India by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules to carry out the provisions of this Act.	
	(2) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.	40 45

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The violence against the Journalists are increasing. The journalist exposed to every kind of attack including police violence against the reporters and reprisals instigated by criminal groups or corrupt local officials. There have been consistent attacks on Journalists who question or criticise the ruling dispensation. The violence pervades the profession of journalism today. The Journalist in India face a range of threats including censorship, economic hardships and job insecurity. The journalists are routinely threatened, intimidated, arrested, booked and silenced. The situation adversely affect the right granted by Article 19(1) of the Constitution for freedom of speech and expression. The independent and fearless media is required to strengthen the democracy.

Hence the protection of Journalists, their institutions and property against violence is necessitated. The Bill, therefore, seeks, to provide for the prevention of violence against the Journalists, their institutions and property.

NEW DELHI;  
*November 19, 2022*

N.K. PREMACHANDRAN

## MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 9 of the Bill empowers the Central Government and State Government to make rules for carrying out the purpose of this Bill. As the rules will relate to matters of details only, the delegation of legislative powers is of a normal character.

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*(Shri N.K. Premachandran, M.P.)*