

AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA
ON THE 5TH DECEMBER, 2025

Bill No. XXXVII of 2025

THE BHARATIYA NAGARIK SURAKSHA SANHITA
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

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BILL

to amend the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (Amendment) Act, 2025.

Short title and
commencement.

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

Insertion of new section 173A.

Mandatory response to public reports of cognizable offences causing public safety incident widely disseminated through electronic means.

2. After section 173 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, the following new section shall be inserted, namely:—

46 of 2023.

“173A. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Sanhita or any other law for the time being in force, where a report, complaint, or information relating to the commission of a cognizable offence, which causes or is likely to cause a public safety incident or public disorder, is —

(a) widely disseminated or reported through any electronic means, including digital social media intermediaries, instant messaging services, or publicly accessible online forums; and

(b) brought to the notice of the officer in charge of a police station within whose jurisdiction such offence is being or has been committed,

such officer shall, subject to verification of the credibility of such report, complaint, or information, record the substance thereof in a book to be kept in the police station in such form as the State Government may by rules prescribe in this behalf and initiate appropriate proceedings under this Sanhita or any other law applicable, without undue delay:

Provided that the book shall be inspected and supervised by the Superintendent of Police on a weekly basis.

(2) Upon recording the information under sub-section (1), it shall be the duty of the officer in charge of the police station to —

(a) issue, within twenty-four hours of such recording, a public statement, in such form and manner as may be prescribed, clarifying the status of preliminary verification, and the steps taken or proposed to be taken; and

(b) disseminate the public statement through appropriate public communication channels including, where feasible, official social media handles of the local police unit or other official means as may be directed by the State Government or the Director General of Police.

(3) The Central Government may, in consultation with the State Governments, prescribe guidelines for the verification of credibility of such public reports, formats of public communication, and procedures to be followed for compliance with this section.

(4) Where the officer in charge of the police station fails to take action under sub-section (1) without sufficient cause, it shall be treated as dereliction of duty and such officer shall be liable to disciplinary action as per applicable service rules.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, expressions not defined in this Sanhita but defined in the Information Technology Act, 2000 shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in that Act.”

21 of 2000.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In this age of digital communication, citizens often use social media to report crimes, raise safety concerns, or share real-time updates from the ground. However, the lack of timely police response to such public reports often leads to distress, misinformation, and public mistrust. Therefore, a Bill to amend the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and to provide for mandatory public response within twenty four hours by the police authorities to any crime, incident, or public grievance reported *via* social media platforms within their jurisdiction is a necessity in the changing times. This will enhance transparency, accountability, and responsiveness in law enforcement.

Hence, this Bill.

MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI.

RAJYA SABHA

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to amend the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.

(Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni, M.P.)