



GOVERNMENT COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Institute of Advanced Studies in Education

CLUSTER UNIVERSITY, SRINAGAR

Maulana Azad Road Srinagar (J&K)

(NAAC RE-ACCREDITED GRADE "A" (CGPA 3.24))

Email: gcoe.sgr@gmail.com / <http://www.gcoekmr.edu.in>



REPORT ON THE AWARENESS PROGRAMME THE THREE NEW CRIMINAL LAWS ENACTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Today on 04th June, 2025 an awareness Programme in the Auditorium of Government College of Education was held regarding 'The Three New Criminal Laws', organized by District Administration, District Legal Services Authority Srinagar and Economic Offences Wing, Srinagar (Crime Branch Srinagar) in collaboration with Government College of Education (IASE) Srinagar. The awareness programme on the newly enacted criminal laws by the Government of India was conducted with the objective of informing students/legal professionals/general public about the significant changes in the Indian legal framework. The session focused on the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA), which replace the Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, and Indian Evidence Act respectively.

The programme was started by Prof. Lateef Ahmad Shah Faculty of the college and moderator of the programme who highlighted the goals of the programme where he said, the main goals of the programme are to educate participants about the key provisions of the three new criminal laws. To clarify the differences between the new and old legal frameworks. To encourage discussion and clarify doubts through expert talks.

The programme began with a welcome address by Prof. Dr Seema Naz Principal of the College who addressed and welcomed the guests and emphasized the transformative nature of the newly enacted criminal laws – the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA). She highlighted the following key points:

- The new laws mark a historic shift from colonial-era legal frameworks to a more citizen-centric and justice-oriented system.
- The principal praised the Government's effort to modernize criminal jurisprudence in India by focusing on speedy justice, digital integration, and victim rights.
- She encouraged students and legal professionals to actively study and engage with the new provisions to better serve the society in their future roles.
- Stressing the importance of legal awareness, the principal said:

"It is our collective responsibility as educators and future legal professionals to understand, interpret, and disseminate the spirit of these laws for the greater good of justice and democracy."

The principal concluded by expressing hope that such awareness programmes would equip the participants with clarity, competence, and commitment toward the evolving legal system of India.

After the welcome address the programme formally began the first speaker Shri Owais Ashraf Law Graduate CJM Court Srinagar talked about the Completion of Investigation within stipulated time he said, 'which is aimed at ensuring faster delivery of justice and reducing

delays in the criminal justice system.” He further said, “The law mandates that investigations in criminal cases be completed within 90 days, with a possible extension of additional 90 days, depending on the nature and complexity of the case.

The Second panellist who spoke on the occasion was Advocate Laila Khalid who is a panel, Lawyer. The theme of his speech was Zero FIR and e-FIR She explained that:

- Zero FIR is a progressive step that allows any person to file an FIR at any police station, regardless of the place where the crime occurred. The police station is then obligated to forward it to the jurisdictional police station for investigation. This ensures that delays in filing complaints are avoided and victims receive prompt assistance, especially in cases like sexual harassment, domestic violence, or road accidents.
- e-FIR is another significant feature that enables the online registration of FIRs for certain categories of offences. This promotes transparency, convenience, and accessibility, especially for people living in remote areas or those unable to visit a police station in person.

Advocate Laila Khalid emphasized that these provisions empower citizens and strengthen victim-centric justice delivery. She also urged legal professionals and law students to familiarize themselves with the technological shifts in the justice system and help raise awareness among the public about these accessible legal tools. “Zero FIR and e-FIR are not just legal reforms; they are steps toward inclusive justice and citizen empowerment,” she noted.

After this the third panellist Shri Mohammad Latief Lone (Asth. PP CJM Court Srinagar) who deliberated on introduction of community services in BNS. Mr Lone delivered an insightful talk on a key reform introduced in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) — the provision of Community Service as a form of punishment.

He elaborated that:

- The introduction of Community Service as an alternative punishment for select minor offences reflects a reformative and rehabilitative approach of the new criminal justice system, moving away from purely punitive measures.
- This provision seeks to decongest prisons, reduce the burden on the correctional system, and provide constructive ways for offenders to contribute to society, especially in non-serious or first-time offences.
- He emphasized that such measures are aligned with modern criminological theories, which advocate correction over incarceration in appropriate cases.

Shri Lone stated:

“Community service is not just a punishment; it is a chance for reform. It allows the offender to reflect, repent, and reintegrate into society without the stigma of imprisonment.”

He concluded by encouraging stakeholders in the justice system — especially prosecutors, judges, and legal aid counsels — to utilize this provision judiciously to promote a more humane and balanced justice system.

The fourth panellist Shri Shiekh Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din (Sr. Prosecuting Officer EOW/SCW Crime Branch Kashmir whose theme of the talk was Three Criminal Laws while deliberating through power point presentation The fourth panelist, Shri Shiekh Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din, Senior Prosecuting Officer, Economic Offences Wing / Special Crime Wing, Crime Branch Kashmir, delivered a detailed and informative session on the Three New Criminal Laws – Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) – through a PowerPoint presentation.

His talk provided a comprehensive comparison between the old laws (IPC, CrPC, and Indian Evidence Act) and the new laws, highlighting both continuities and key transformations. Some of the major themes discussed included:

- The structural reorganization and renumbering of sections in the new laws for better clarity and accessibility.
- Introduction of victim-centric provisions, such as mandatory timelines for investigations and enhanced witness protection.
- Emphasis on digital procedures, including e-FIR, use of technology in evidence collection, and admissibility of electronic records.
- Inclusion of new offences, such as mob lynching, hate crimes, and organized crime, which were not explicitly covered under the old laws.
- Strengthened focus on gender-sensitive justice, speedy trials, and accountability of law enforcement agencies.

Shri Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din's presentation was visually engaging and content-rich, making complex legal transitions understandable even to non-specialist audiences. His clarity, analytical depth, and practical insight were widely appreciated by the audience.

“The three new laws are a paradigm shift. They reflect a justice system that is responsive, accountable, and in tune with 21st-century realities,” he noted.

He concluded by stressing the need for continued legal education and institutional readiness to implement the new laws effectively.

The fifth panellist and chief guest of the programme Shri Abdul Waheed Shah JKPS, Sr. Prosecuting Officer EOW/SCW Crime Branch Kashmir who spoke through a power point presentation about the three Criminal laws gave a comprehensive overview of the Crime Branch of Kashmir delivered an insightful and impactful PowerPoint presentation. His address focused on two key areas:

1. A comprehensive overview of the three newly enacted criminal laws, and
2. An informative briefing on the role, functions, and structure of the Crime Branch of Kashmir.

1. Overview of the Three Criminal Laws

Shri Shah elaborated on the objectives and salient features of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA). He outlined:

- The shift from colonial-era statutes to a modern, citizen-focused legal framework.
- The emphasis on technology, such as electronic FIRs, digital evidence, and virtual trials.
- Key innovations like community service, timeline-bound investigations, Zero FIR, and victim-centric provisions.
- The need for training and upskilling of police, prosecutors, and judiciary to ensure effective implementation.

2. Overview of Crime Branch Kashmir

Shri Shah also used the platform to provide a comprehensive overview of the Crime Branch Kashmir, detailing:

- The jurisdiction, structure, and special wings within the Crime Branch, including the Economic Offences Wing and Special Crime Wing.
- The investigative role played by the unit in dealing with complex crimes like financial fraud, cybercrime, and high-profile criminal cases.
- The collaborative role of prosecutors and investigators in ensuring strong case-building and conviction rates.

He also stressed the importance of public cooperation, legal literacy, and inter-agency coordination in combating modern-day crime.

PANEL DISCUSSION AND STUDENT INTERACTION

Following the keynote addresses and expert presentations, a lively and engaging panel discussion was held, bringing together a distinguished group of legal professionals, academicians, and law enforcement officers. The discussion was chaired by Shri Abdul Waheed Shah (JKPS, Sr. Prosecuting Officer, Crime Branch Kashmir) and moderated by Prof. Lateef Ahmad Shah.

The esteemed panellists included:

- **Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz**, Principal of the host College & Nodal Principal of the Kashmir Division Colleges.
- **Dr. Nazir Ahmad Bhat**, Head, Department of Education
- **Shiekh Bilal Mohi-ud-Din**, Sr. Prosecuting Officer, Crime Branch Kashmir
- **Shri Mohammad Latief Lone**, Assistant Public Prosecutor, CJM Court Srinagar
- **Shri Zahoor Ahmad**, DySP
- **Advocate Laila Khalid**, Panel Lawyer
- **Shri Tasleem Ahmad Khan**, Panellist
- **Shri Owais Ashraf**, Panellist

Each panellist contributed meaningful insights into different aspects of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA). The discussion highlighted the practical implications, implementation challenges, and opportunities presented by the new legal framework.

Key themes of the panel discussion included:

- The role of education in spreading awareness about legal reforms.
- Challenges in training law enforcement personnel for the new laws.
- Victim protection, speedy trial provisions, and transparency.
- Digitalization and modernization of criminal procedures.
- Community involvement in the justice process.

STUDENT INTERACTION

The session was further enriched by an interactive Q&A segment, where students posed thought-provoking questions to the panellists. Some of the key areas raised by students included:

- How Zero FIR will function in rural or under-resourced areas.

- The admissibility of digital evidence and its potential misuse.
- How community service sentences will be monitored and enforced.
- Readiness of police and judiciary to adopt the reforms.
- Whether ongoing cases under the old laws will be affected.

The panellists responded with clarity and depth, encouraging students to stay updated with legal developments and emphasizing their role as future custodians of justice.

The interactive discussion created a bridge between theoretical understanding and real-world legal practice, leaving the participants with deeper insights and a strong sense of civic and legal responsibility.

CONCLUSION AND VOTE OF THANKS

Last but not the least, the moderator of the programme, Prof. Lateef Ahmad Shah, brought the session to a graceful conclusion. In his concluding remarks, he appreciated the depth and diversity of perspectives shared by the esteemed panellists and highlighted the significance of the newly enacted criminal laws in reshaping the justice delivery system of India.

The programme formally concluded with a heartfelt Vote of Thanks presented by Prof. Ab Gani Kumar, (HOD Department of Urdu) who expressed his gratitude to all dignitaries, panellists, guests, faculty members, and students for their active participation and valuable contributions.

HE EXTENDED SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- The Chief Guest, Shri Abdul Waheed Shah (JKPS), for his enlightening address
- All panellists for sharing their expertise and engaging with the audience.
- The organizing committee for meticulous planning and smooth execution.
- The student participants for their keen interest and thoughtful questions.

Prof. Kumar also acknowledged the institutional leadership and support staff who made the event successful, and he expressed hope that such awareness initiatives would continue to foster legal literacy, academic engagement, and civic responsibility among students and professionals alike.

Sd/-
Prof. Lateef Ahmad Shah
Convenor

Sd/-
Dr. Ab Rashid Shiekh
Rapporteur

Sd/-
Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz
Principal

No:- GCOE/IASE/25/1064, Dated: - 04-06-2025

Photograph

