

## LVI

**Bill No. XCVIII of 2024**

*A Bill further to amend the Child and Adolescent Labour  
(Prohibition and Regulation)  
Act, 1986.*

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) (Amendment) Act, 2024.  
(2) 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.

Amendment of  
Section 3.

2. In the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 (hereinafter referred to as the principal act), in section 3, for sub-section (2), the following shall be substituted, namely—

61 of 1986.

“(2) Nothing in sub-section (1) shall apply where the child, —

“(a) helps his family or family enterprise, which is other than any hazardous occupations or processes set forth in the Schedule, after his school hours or during vacations; or

(b) works as an artist in an audio-visual entertainment industry, including advertisement, films, television serials, sound or audio-visual recording with respect to those uploaded on social media networks, or any such other entertainment or sports activities, except the circus, subject to such conditions including working for not more than twenty four days in a month and requisite safety measures, as may be prescribed:

Provided that anyone other than “family” who records videos or audios that feature a child for the purpose of monetization on video sharing platforms shall be liable for penalty as provided under clause (e) of sub-section (3) of section 14 and no such work under this clause shall affect the school education of the child and fifty per cent. of the income generated by the child as an artist shall be deposited as fixed deposit in any of the Scheduled Banks, as defined under clause (e) of section 2 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, and shall be made available to the child, when he completes eighteen years of age.”

2 of 1934.

*Explanation.*— For the purposes of this section, the expression,

(a) “family” in relation to a child, means his mother, father, brother and sister and also includes guardian as defined in clause (2) of section 4 of the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890.

8 of 1890.

(b) “family enterprise” means any work, profession, manufacturing or business which is performed by members of the family with engagement of other persons;

(c) “artist” means a child who performs or practices any work as a hobby or profession directly involving him as an actor, singer, sports person or content creator in audio-video form for social media networks or in any such other activities as may be prescribed relating to the entertainment or sports activity falling under clause (b) of sub-section (2).

Amendment of  
Section 14.

3. In section 14 of the principal Act, in sub-section (3), after clause (d), the following new clause shall be inserted, namely: —

“(e) fails to comply with or contravenes the provisions of section 3 of the Act shall be punishable with simple imprisonment which may extend to three months or with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or with both.”

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 provides for prohibition of the engagement of children in certain employments and for regulating the conditions of work of children in certain other employments.

Section 3 of the said Act, *inter alia*, provides that employment of children below the age of fourteen years is prohibited in any of the occupations or processes specified in the Schedule to the said Act. Section 6 of the said Act provides that the provisions of Part III of the Act (which relates to the regulation of conditions of work of children) shall apply to an establishment or a class of establishments in which none of the occupations referred to in section 3 is carried on.

With rapid strides in mass media communications and technological innovation, social media has become the new rage in society with adults, adolescents and children being addicted to watching and making reels and posting content thereon. It is being observed that families often post audios or videos of their children who are talented in music, dance, acting etc. on social media as a form of encouragement and to popularize their talent. Often families together participate in such activities. In consonance with this trend, it is proposed to include these activities within the purview of Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 by making suitable amendments in section 3 thereof and to exclude such activities, which are being pursued as part of family activity. The definition of 'family' and 'artist' in the Explanation to section 3 is also proposed to be amended to include 'Guardian' as defined under the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 and to include social media activities respectively. However, if persons other than the family of the child indulge in such activities for the sole purpose of monetary benefit, they will be penalized for the same with simple imprisonment which may extend to three months or with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees or with both, for which provision has been made under section 14 of the Act through due amendment thereto.

It is also imperative to ensure that the earnings of a child artist accrue to him as a future investment and are not squandered away by the family. For this, it is proposed to provide that fifty per cent. of the income generated by the child as an artist shall be locked in Fixed Deposits in any of the Scheduled Banks, as defined under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, which shall be available to the child after he completes eighteen years of age.

Hence, this Bill.

IRANNA KADADI

## LVII

## Bill No. XLIV of 2024

*A Bill to amend the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.*

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

## CHAPTER I

## PRELIMINARY

1. (1) This Act may be called the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act 2024.

Short title and  
commencement.

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

## CHAPTER II

## AMENDMENT TO THE BHARATIYA NYAYA SANHITA, 2023

Amendment of section 299.

2. In Chapter XVI of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, after section 299, the following new section shall be inserted, namely: —

45 of 2023.

Sacrilege of religious texts.

“299A. Whoever damages, destroys or defiles any religious text, revered by any religious community in India, including but not limited to ‘Sri Guru Granth Sahib’, ‘Srimad Bhagwad Geeta’, ‘Holy Quran’ and ‘Holy Bible’, with the deliberate and malicious intention of hurting the religious feelings of that community, shall be guilty of sacrilege and shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not less than seven years but which may extend to imprisonment for life.”

## CHAPTER III

## AMENDMENT TO THE BHARATIYA NAGARIK SURAKSHA SANHITA, 2023

Amendment of section 346.

3. In Chapter XXVI of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023, in section 346, after sub-section (1), for the existing proviso, the following shall be substituted, namely: —

46 of 2023.

“Provided that when the inquiry or trial relates to an offence under section 64, section 65, section 66, section 67, section 68, section 70, section 71 or section 299A of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the inquiry or trial shall be completed within a period of two months from the date of filing of the chargesheet.”

45 of 2023.

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Sacred religious texts are sacrosanct to every religion in India and we have witnessed increase in cases of sacrilege of religious texts across the country due to insufficient punishment to deter such a heinous crime which can lead to law and order issues. The importance and sensitivity of our religious texts can be ascertained from the fact that the sacred Guru Granth Sahib Ji is considered living guru by Sikhs and is accorded respect accordingly.

The State of Punjab has witnessed several cases of sacrilege and in order to deal with such a sensitive issue, the Punjab Assembly, in 2018, had unanimously passed the Indian Penal Code (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2018 and the Code of Criminal Procedure (Punjab Amendment) Bill 2018, which stipulated punishment upto life imprisonment for injury, damage or sacrilege to Guru Granth Sahib, Bhagwat Gita, Holy Quran and Holy Bible with the intention to hurt the religious feelings of the people. The Bill is currently under consideration of the Hon'ble President.

The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 proposes to add Section 299A to the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 to make "sacrilege of religious texts such as Sri Guru Granth Sahib, Srimad Bhagwad Geeta, Holy Quran and Holy Bible with the intention to hurt the religious feelings of the people", a crime punishable with a maximum punishment of life imprisonment.

The proposed penal provision is based on the premise that such sacrilege leads to enormous hurt to religious sentiments of the people, causes disruption of public order and disturbs communal harmony, which the State has a duty to maintain. This Bill is a major step towards curbing such incidents of sacrilege and maintaining communal harmony in the country.

This Bill is a *sine qua non* for a diverse country like India wherein, several cases of sacrilege have been reported across the States and the same have been used to invoke communal tensions and therefore, in order to maintain communal harmony across the country, it is necessary that rigorous punishment is given to deter criminals trying to disturb communal harmony.

The quantum of punishment for sacrilege is inadequate under the existing laws and therefore, this Bill seeks to create deterrence for any kind of sacrilege by prescribing a minimum punishment of seven years and a maximum punishment of life imprisonment.

Hence, this Bill.

RAGHAV CHADHA