

India to remove 287 'laughable' laws

10th October, 2014



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The Indian government will scrap 287 obsolete laws that date back to the 19th century, when India was under British rule. India's Law Minister Ravi Prasad is

overseeing a "clean-up" of India's legal system. He has been instructed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to streamline the statute book and make India an easier place in which to live and do business. India's legislature is mired in hundreds of arcane laws introduced in the times of the British Empire. Mr Prasad called some of the laws "laughable" and had "no place in a modern and democratic India". Prasad has a tough task ahead of him. Even after this initial cull, the country will still have thousands of regulations that are obstacles to business.

The repeal of the laws will take effect from November. After then, it will no longer be illegal to fly a kite without police permission. A 1934 law classified a kite as an aircraft. A law that is a constant source of irritation to factory owners is one that requires them to have red buckets full of water and sand, even if their buildings are equipped with state-of-the-art sprinkler systems. Another oddity to go is the Motor Vehicles Act, that says a car safety inspector must have clean teeth. Also going is the Registration of Foreigners' Act, 1939, which requires foreigners staying in India for more than 180 days to report his/her movements. This should give a boost to India's tourism industry.

Sources: *Hindustan Times* / *India Today* / *BBC*

Writing

There should be a law that requires service personnel to have clean teeth. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

government / obsolete laws / the 19th century / legal system / democratic / cull / illegal / irritation / sprinkler systems / safety inspector / boost / tourism industry

True / False

- a) Most of the laws India will scrap are over 500 years old. T / F
- b) India's Prime Minister has asked that the legal system be cleaned up. T / F
- c) Many laws to go are ones that fine people for laughing. T / F
- d) There will still be thousands more regulations that hinder business. T / F
- e) The laws will be repealed starting in January next year. T / F
- f) Factory owners must still keep red buckets of sand and water for fires. T / F
- g) A law stated car safety inspectors had to have clean teeth. T / F
- h) Long-stay foreigners will no longer need to report their movements. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. obsolete | a. improve |
| 2. rule | b. hindrances |
| 3. overseeing | c. authorisation |
| 4. mired | d. governance |
| 5. obstacles | e. peculiarity |
| 6. permission | f. supervising |
| 7. irritation | g. out-of-date |
| 8. state-of-the-art | h. bogged down |
| 9. oddity | i. annoyance |
| 10. boost | j. modern |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What are the craziest laws in your country?
- c) Have you ever broken the law?
- d) What laws in your country would you like to change?
- e) Do laws get in the way of doing business?
- f) What laws stop you from doing things you want to do?
- g) What one law would you like to introduce?
- h) How would you describe your country's legal system?

Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. scrap | a. in which to live |
| 2. overseeing a "clean-up" | b. of irritation |
| 3. an easier place | c. obstacles to business |
| 4. Prasad has a tough | d. effect from November |
| 5. regulations that are | e. sprinkler systems |
| 6. The repeal of the laws will take | f. of India's legal system |
| 7. without police | g. tourism industry |
| 8. a constant source | h. task ahead of him |
| 9. state-of-the-art | i. permission |
| 10. give a boost to India's | j. 287 obsolete laws |

Discussion – Student B

- What laws would you like your country to repeal?
- Should the U.N. make the laws for every country?
- Is a law that requires inspectors to have clean teeth a good law?
- What laws do we need for the Internet?
- Should foreigners in a country be subject to different laws?
- Would you like to be a lawmaker?
- How will the repeal of the laws help India's tourism?
- What questions would you like to ask India's Law Minister?

Spelling

- scrap 287 osotelbe laws
- Intsaeimer the statute book
- India's lseutgrlaei
- a modern and iatcdmcoer India
- thousands of oirnuslgtae
- sacetsolb to business
- The eplrae of the laws
- A 1934 law cdelsfiais a kite as an aircraft
- a constant source of aitoritinr
- uqppeied with state-of-the-art sprinkler systems
- a car safety nircpetos
- a boost to India's tstrmuio industry

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. f	4. h	5. b
6. c	7. i	8. j	9. e	10. a

Role Play

Role A – Road safety

You think road safety is where new laws are most needed. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't need new laws. Also, tell the others which is the last of these to need new laws (and why): terrorism, corruption in government or cybercrime.

Role B – Terrorism

You think terrorism is where new laws are most needed. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't need new laws. Also, tell the others which is the last of these to need new laws (and why): road safety, corruption in government or cybercrime.

Role C – Corruption in government

You think corruption in government is where new laws are most needed. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't need new laws. Also, tell the others which is the last of these to need new laws (and why): terrorism, road safety or cybercrime.

Role D – Cybercrime

You think cybercrime is where new laws are most needed. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things don't need new laws. Also, tell the others which is the last of these to need new laws (and why): terrorism, corruption in government or road safety.

Speaking – Important laws

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important laws at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| • driving | • burglary |
| • cybercrime | • corporate corruption |
| • domestic violence | • libel |
| • shoplifting | • terrorism |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.