

## EXAMINING SECTION 111 OF THE BHARATIYA NYAYA SANHITA IN THE CONTEXT OF CROSS-BORDER ORGANISED CRIMES IN WEST BENGAL AND CONGRUITY OF SDG 16 IN RESTORING PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

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*The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, introduces a landmark provision i.e. Section 111 which codifies organised crime. Under Section 111, continuing unlawful activities such as kidnapping, extortion, trafficking, economic offences, and cyber-crimes, committed by syndicates or organized groups, are explicitly criminalized. This paper examines the application of Section 111 in the border regions of West Bengal, a geographically sensitive area characterized by high vulnerability to cross-border crime. By contextualizing legal reform within regional law-enforcement realities, the study explores how the codification of organized crime under BNS may enhance prosecution of syndicates operating across state and international borders. The United Nations established Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 in 2015 with the goals of fostering inclusive and peaceful societies, ensuring that everyone has access to justice, and creating inclusive, responsible, and efficient institutions. This objective is especially important for West Bengal, a state that shares a porous border with Bangladesh. Cross-border organized crime continues to pose a threat to the region's peace, justice, and institutional integrity.*

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