

Year	Act/Law	Key Provisions
1929	Child Marriage Restraint Act (Sarda Act)	Set minimum marriage age (14 for girls, 18 for boys).
1937	Hindu Women's Right to Property Act	Granted widows limited inheritance rights.
1955	Hindu Marriage Act	Legalized divorce, banned polygamy, and regulated Hindu marriages.
1956	Hindu Succession Act	Granted daughters equal inheritance rights in paternal property.
1961	Dowry Prohibition Act	Criminalized giving/taking dowry (penalty: 5 years + fine).
1972	Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act	Legalized abortion under specific conditions.
1986	Indecent Representation of Women Act	Banned derogatory depictions of women in ads/media.

1994	Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostics Act (PC-PNDT)	Banned sex-determination tests to prevent female foeticide.
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2005	Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA)	Civil remedies (protection orders, residence rights) for abuse survivors.
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2005	Hindu Succession Amendment Act	Granted daughters equal rights in ancestral property (applied retroactively).
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2006	Prohibition of Child Marriage Act	Replaced the 1929 Act; made child marriage voidable.
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2013	Criminal Law Amendment Act (Nirbhaya Act)	Stricter rape laws (death penalty for repeat offenders), criminalized acid attacks, stalking.
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2013	Sexual Harassment at Workplace (POSH) Act	Mandated Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) in offices.
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2017	Maternity Benefit Amendment Act	Extended paid maternity leave from 12 to 26 weeks.
2019	Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act	Criminalized instant triple talaq (3-year jail for offenders).
2021	Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act	Increased abortion limit to 24 weeks for special cases (rape, disabilities).
2023	Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)*	Proposed gender-neutral adultery laws, life/death penalty for gang rape.
2024	Women's Reservation Bill (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam)	33% quota for women in Lok Sabha/state assemblies.
2024	Digital Safety Bill	Criminalizes deepfake abuse, cyberstalking, and non-consensual sharing of intimate images.
2024	Women's Reservation Bill Implementation	33% quota for women in Lok Sabha & state assemblies (passed in 2023, implementation likely by 2029).
2025	Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)	Replaces IPC: Gender-neutral adultery laws, stricter penalties for gang rape (life/death penalty).
2025	Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill	Proposed extension of paid maternity leave to 32 weeks for private sector employees.

**2025 Surrogacy Regulation
(Amendment) Rules**

Stricter regulations to protect surrogate mothers from exploitation.

Category	Status
Marriage	Amended in 1978
Property	Repealed in 1956
Marriage	Active
Property	Amended in 2005
Anti-Dowry	Active
Health	Amended in 2021
Dignity	Amended in 2012

Health Active

Domestic Safety Active

Property Active

Marriage Active

Sexual Violence Active

Workplace Active

Workplace Active

Marriage Active

Health Active

Criminal Justice Pending (2025)

Political Representation Passed (2023, implementation pending)

Cyber Safety Draft Stage

Political Representation Pending Enforcement

Criminal Justice Pending Parliamentary Approval

Workplace Under Discussion

