



Official Secrets Act 1923

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A travel blogger from Haryana was arrested for alleged espionage and promoting pro-Pakistan content under **Sections 3 and 5 of the [Official Secrets Act, 1923](#)** & **Section 152 of the [Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita \(BNS\)](#)**.

Official Secrets Act (OSA), 1923

- **About:** It originated during the colonial-era **Indian Official Secrets Act, 1889**, aimed at **suppressing press dissent** and made more stringent in **1904** under **Lord Curzon** and finally revised in **1923**.
- **Purpose:** To prevent **espionage** and **unauthorized disclosure** of classified sensitive information, protecting India's **sovereignty, integrity**, and **strategic interests**, especially from foreign threats.
- **Applicability:** Applicable to **all Indian citizens**, including government officials, **both in India and abroad**, and to **non-citizens** if they are involved in acts of espionage.
- **Sections of OSA, 1923:**
 - **Section 3 of the Act** criminalises espionage and **acts against national security, including the possession of sensitive documents** or the sharing of secret codes, with a punishment of imprisonment for up to 14 years.
 - **Section 5** penalises **unauthorised disclosure, possession, retention, or failure to return official documents**, including those who knowingly receive such information.
 - **Section 10** deals with penalty for **harboring spies**

Section 152 of the BNS

- **[Section 152](#) of [BNS](#)** (deals with **sedition**) **criminalizes intentional acts**—by words, signs, electronic means, or finance—**that incite secession, rebellion, or threaten India's sovereignty and integrity**, while **exempting legitimate and lawful criticism of the government**.

Read More: [Arrest Under Official Secrets Act, Sedition Charges](#).