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Level 6

India to remove 287 'laughable' laws

10th October, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1410/141010-laws.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1410/141010-laws.html>

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: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-wields-the-axe-on-her-majesty-s-laughable-laws/article1-1272727.aspx>
<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/british-colonial-law-treasure-findings-her-majesty-ravi-shankar-prasad/1/394613.html>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-india-29516976>

WARM-UPS

1. LAWS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about laws. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

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

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. LEGISLATION: Make some new legislation? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

New law	Laws existing today	New law(s)	Why?
The Internet			
Travel			
Domestic violence			
Pets			
Mobile phones			
Terrorism			

4. BUSINESS: Students A **strongly** believe laws are an obstacle to business; Students B **strongly** believe laws help business. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

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

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

6. LEGAL: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "legal". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1410/141010-laws.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 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 |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 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 |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 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 |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1410/141010-laws.html>

The Indian government will (1) _____ 287 obsolete laws that date back to the 19th century, when India was under British rule. India's Law Minister Ravi Prasad is (2) _____ a "clean-up" of India's legal system. He has been instructed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to (3) _____ the statute book and make India an easier place in which to live and do business. India's (4) _____ is mired in hundreds of arcane laws introduced in the (5) _____ of the British Empire. Mr Prasad called some of the laws "laughable" and had "no (6) _____ in a modern and democratic India". Prasad has a tough (7) _____ ahead of him. Even after this initial cull, the country will still have thousands of regulations that are (8) _____ to business.

task

legislature

scrap

times

streamline

obstacles

overseeing

place

The repeal of the laws will take (9) _____ from November. After then, it will no longer be illegal to fly a kite without police (10) _____. A 1934 law (11) _____ a kite as an aircraft. A law that is a constant (12) _____ of irritation to factory owners is one that requires them to have red buckets full of water and sand, even if their buildings are (13) _____ with state-of-the-art sprinkler systems. Another oddity to go is the Motor Vehicles Act, that says a car safety (14) _____ must have clean teeth. Also going is the Registration of Foreigners' Act, 1939, which (15) _____ foreigners staying in India for more than 180 days to report his/her (16) _____. This should give a boost to India's tourism industry.

permission

source

inspector

requires

effect

movements

classified

equipped

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1410/141010-laws.html>

- 1) The Indian government will scrap 287 obsolete laws that _____ the 19th century
 - a. dates back to
 - b. dated back to
 - c. date back to
 - d. dating back to
- 2) He has been instructed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to streamline _____
 - a. the stature book
 - b. the statute book
 - c. the statue
 - d. the stat you book
- 3) India's legislature is mired in hundreds _____
 - a. of arcade laws
 - b. of arc cane laws
 - c. of are cane laws
 - d. of arcane laws
- 4) Prasad has a tough _____ him
 - a. task ahead of
 - b. task ahead with
 - c. task ahead for
 - d. task ahead if
- 5) the country will still have thousands of regulations _____
 - a. that are tentacles
 - b. that are icicles
 - c. that are receptacles
 - d. that are obstacles
- 6) The repeal of the laws will _____ November
 - a. take effect from
 - b. take affect from
 - c. take infect from
 - d. take reflect from
- 7) After then, it will no longer be illegal to fly a kite without _____
 - a. police permissions
 - b. police persimmon
 - c. police Parmesan
 - d. police permission
- 8) A law that is a constant source of irritation _____
 - a. to factory owners
 - b. to factories owners
 - c. to factory's owners
 - d. to factories' owners
- 9) even if their buildings are equipped with _____ sprinkler systems
 - a. state-of-the-yurt
 - b. state-of-the-yard
 - c. state-of-the-art
 - d. state-of-the-hard
- 10) This should give a boost to India's _____
 - a. touristic industry
 - b. touring industry
 - c. tourism industry
 - d. tourists industry

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1410/141010-laws.html>

The Indian government will scrap 287 obsolete laws (1) _____ the 19th century, when India was under British rule. India's Law Minister Ravi Prasad is (2) _____ of India's legal system. He has been instructed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to streamline (3) _____ and make India an easier place in which to live and do business. India's legislature (4) _____ 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 (5) _____ of him. Even after this initial cull, the country will still have thousands of regulations (6) _____ business.

The repeal of the laws will (7) _____ 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 (8) _____ 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 (9) _____ sprinkler systems. Another (10) _____ the Motor Vehicles Act, that says a (11) _____ 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 (12) _____ India's tourism industry.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1410/141010-laws.html>

1. When do some of the 287 laws date back to?

2. What is the title of the person cleaning up the laws?

3. What does the Prime Minister want streamlined?

4. In what times were many of the arcane laws introduced?

5. What does the article say the laws are an obstacle to?

6. From whom did people need permission to fly a kite?

7. Who got irritated at a law requiring red fire buckets of sand and water?

8. What did the Motor Vehicles Act require safety inspectors to have?

9. When was the Registration of Foreigners' Act introduced?

10. What will benefit from the repeal of the Registration of Foreigners' Act?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1410/141010-laws.html>

1. When do some of the 287 laws date back to?
 - a) the turn of the century
 - b) the 19th century
 - c) the dawn of history
 - d) the middle ages
2. What is the title of the person cleaning up the laws?
 - a) Person Who Cleans Up Laws
 - b) Legislative Streamliner
 - c) Law Minister
 - d) Cleaner of Laws
3. What does the Prime Minister want streamlined?
 - a) prisons
 - b) law exams
 - c) courts
 - d) the statute book
4. In what times were many of the arcane laws introduced?
 - a) the good times
 - b) the British Empire
 - c) the times of the Raj
 - d) World War II
5. What does the article say the laws are an obstacle to?
 - a) business
 - b) judges
 - c) common sense
 - d) laughing
6. From whom did people need permission to fly a kite?
 - a) the police
 - b) the India Kite-Flyer Association
 - c) the local airport
 - d) the Kite Minister
7. Who got irritated at a law requiring red fire buckets of sand and water?
 - a) politicians
 - b) red bucket makers
 - c) restaurants
 - d) factory owners
8. What did the Motor Vehicles Act require safety inspectors to have?
 - a) a high school certificate
 - b) a car
 - c) clean teeth
 - d) a first-aid licence
9. When was the Registration of Foreigners' Act introduced?
 - a) 1639
 - b) 1739
 - c) 1839
 - d) 1939
10. What will benefit from the repeal of the Registration of Foreigners' Act?
 - a) new laws
 - b) India's tourism industry
 - c) India's currency
 - d) the U.S. Embassy

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1410/141010-laws.html>

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.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1410/141010-laws.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'legal' and 'system'.

legal	system
--------------	---------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• date• clean• easier• times• modern• thousands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• effect• police• red• art• teeth• 180
--	---

LAWS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1410/141010-laws.html>

Write five GOOD questions about laws in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

LAWS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- 1) What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'law'?
- 3) What do you think about what you read?
- 4) What are the craziest laws in your country?
- 5) Have you ever broken the law?
- 6) What laws in your country would you like to change?
- 7) Do laws get in the way of doing business?
- 8) What laws stop you from doing things you want to do?
- 9) What one law would you like to introduce?
- 10) How would you describe your country's legal system?

India to remove 287 'laughable' laws – 10th October, 2014
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LAWS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- 11) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- 12) How much will the lives of Indians change without these laws?
- 13) What laws would you like your country to repeal?
- 14) Should the U.N. make the laws for every country?
- 15) Is a law that requires inspectors to have clean teeth a good law?
- 16) What laws do we need for the Internet?
- 17) Should foreigners in a country be subject to different laws?
- 18) Would you like to be a lawmaker?
- 19) How will the repeal of the laws help India's tourism?
- 20) What questions would you like to ask India's Law Minister?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1410/141010-laws.html>

The Indian government will (1) _____ 287 obsolete laws that date back to the 19th century, when India was under British (2) _____. 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 (3) _____ book and make India an easier place in which to live and do business. India's legislature is mired (4) _____ hundreds of arcane laws introduced in the times of the British Empire. Mr Prasad called some of the laws "laughable" and had "(5) _____ 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 (6) _____ business.

The repeal of the laws will take effect from November. After then, it will no (7) _____ be illegal to fly a kite without police permission. A 1934 law classified a kite (8) _____ 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 (9) _____ with state-of-the-art sprinkler systems. Another (10) _____ to go is the Motor Vehicles Act, that says a car safety inspector must have clean teeth. Also (11) _____ 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 (12) _____ a boost to India's tourism industry.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. | (a) scrape | (b) scarper | (c) scupper | (d) scrap |
| 2. | (a) ruled | (b) ruler | (c) ruling | (d) rule |
| 3. | (a) stature | (b) statute | (c) statue | (d) status |
| 4. | (a) at | (b) on | (c) in | (d) by |
| 5. | (a) not | (b) any | (c) no | (d) some |
| 6. | (a) to | (b) by | (c) as | (d) so |
| 7. | (a) lengthen | (b) longer | (c) longing | (d) lengthy |
| 8. | (a) as | (b) for | (c) in | (d) by |
| 9. | (a) equipment | (b) equipped | (c) equips | (d) equipping |
| 10. | (a) evenness | (b) strangely | (c) oddity | (d) peculiar |
| 11. | (a) goer | (b) went | (c) going | (d) go-to |
| 12. | (a) shell out | (b) lend | (c) furnish | (d) give |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1410/141010-laws.html>

Paragraph 1

1. scrap 287 osotelbe laws
2. Intsaeimer the statute book
3. India's lseutgrlaei
4. a modern and iatcdmcoer India
5. thousands of oirnuslgtae
6. sacetsolb to business

Paragraph 2

7. The eplrae of the laws
8. A 1934 law cdelsfiais a kite as an aircraft
9. a constant source of aitoritinr
10. uqppeied with state-of-the-art sprinkler systems
11. a car safety nircpetos
12. a boost to India's tstrmuio industry

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1410/141010-laws.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

()	go is the Motor Vehicles Act, that says a car safety inspector must have clean
()	even if their buildings are equipped with state-of-the-art sprinkler systems. Another oddity to
()	The repeal of the laws will take effect from November. After then, it will no longer be illegal
()	book and make India an easier place in which to live and do business. India's legislature is mired
()	task ahead of him. Even after this initial cull, the country will still have thousands of regulations that are obstacles to business.
(1)	The Indian government will scrap 287 obsolete laws that date back to the 19th century, when India was
()	to fly a kite without police permission. A 1934 law classified a kite as an aircraft. A law that is a constant source
()	teeth. Also going is the Registration of Foreigners' Act, 1939, which requires foreigners staying in India for
()	"laughable" and had "no place in a modern and democratic India". Prasad has a tough
()	up" of India's legal system. He has been instructed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to streamline the statute
()	under British rule. India's Law Minister Ravi Prasad is overseeing a "clean-
()	in hundreds of arcane laws introduced in the times of the British Empire. Mr Prasad called some of the laws
()	more than 180 days to report his/her movements. This should give a boost to India's tourism industry.
()	of irritation to factory owners is one that requires them to have red buckets full of water and sand,

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1410/141010-laws.html>

1. laws back 19th Obsolete date the that to century .

2. Make easier which an in live India place to .

3. of is hundreds laws legislature in arcane India's mired .

4. Prasad ahead has of a him tough task .

5. that are Thousands obstacles of to regulations business .

6. November The repeal of the laws will take effect from .

7. to fly a kite It will no longer be illegal .

8. an A classified as law kite aircraft 1934 a .

9. state- systems sprinkler art the- with Equipped of- .

10. should boost tourism This a India's give to industry .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1410/141010-laws.html>

The Indian government will *scrap / scrape* 287 obsolete laws that date back to the 19th century, when India was under British *ruler / rule*. India's Law Minister Ravi Prasad is *sightseeing / overseeing* a "clean-up" of India's legal system. He has been *instructed / instructions* by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to streamline the *stature / statute* book and make India an easier place in which to live and do business. India's legislature is *mired / mixed* in hundreds of *arcane / arcade* laws introduced in the times of the British Empire. Mr Prasad called some of the laws "laughable" and had "no *place / places* in a modern and democratic India". Prasad has a tough *ask / task* ahead of him. Even after this initial cull, the country will still have thousands of regulations that are obstacles *at / to* business.

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

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1410/141010-laws.html>

Th_ _nd_ _n g_v_rnm_nt w_ll scr_p 287 _bs_l_t_ l_ws
th_t d_t_b ck t_ th_ 19th c_nt_ry, wh_n _nd_ _w_s
_nd_r Br_t_sh r_l_. _nd_ 's L_w M_n_st_r R_v_ Pr_s_d
_s _v_rs_ _ng _ "cl__n-p" _f _nd_ 's l_g_l syst_m.
H_ h_s b__n _nstr_ct_d by Pr_m_ M_n_st_r N_r_ndr_
M_d_t_ str__ml_n_ th_ st_t_t_ b__k _nd m_k_ _nd_
_n _s_r pl_c_ _n wh_ch t_ l_v_ _nd d_b_s_n_ss.
nd 's l_g_sl_t_r_ _s m_r_d _n h_ndr_ds _f _rc_n_
l_ws _ntr_d_c_d _n th_ t_m_s _f th_ Br_t_sh _mp_r_.
Mr Pr_s_d c_ll_d s_m_ _f th_ l_ws "l__gh_bl_" _nd h_d
"n_ pl_c_ _n _m_d_rn _nd d_m_cr_t_c _nd_". Pr_s_d
h_s _t_gh_t sk _h__d _f h_m. _v_n _ft_r th_s
_n_t_l_c_ll, th_ c__ntry w_ll st_ll h_v_ th__s_nds _f
r_g_l_t__ns th_t _r_ _bst_cl_s_t_ b_s_n_ss.

Th_r_p__l _f th_ l_ws w_ll t_k_ _ff_ct fr_m N_v_mb_r.
_ft_r th_n, _t w_ll n_ l_ng_r b_ _ll_g_l_t_ fly _k_t_
w_th__t p_l_c_ p_rm_ss__n. _ 1934 l_w cl_ss_f__d _
k_t_ _s_n _rcr_ft. _ l_w th_t _s _c_nst_nt s__rc_ _f
_rr_t_t_n t_ f_ct_ry _wn_rs _s_n_ th_t r_q__r_s
th_m t_ h_v_r_d b_ck_ts f_ll _f w_t_r _nd s_nd, _v_n
_f th__r b__ld_ngs _r_ _q__pp_d w_th st_t_-f-th_-rt
spr_nkl_r syst_ms. _n th_r _dd_ty t_g_ _s th_ M_t_r
V_h_cl_s _ct, th_t s_ys _c_r_s_f_ty _nsp_ct_r m_st
h_v_ cl__n_t__th. _ls_g__ng _s th_ R_g_str_t__n _f
F_r__gn_rs' _ct, 1939, wh_ch r_q__r_s f_r__gn_rs
st_y_ng _n _nd_ _f_r m_r_ th_n 180 d_ys t_r_p_rt
h_s/h_r_m_v_m_nts. Th_s sh__ld g_v_ _ b__st_t_
nd 's t__r_sm _nd_stry.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1410/141010-laws.html>

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

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1410/141010-laws.html>

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 Ravindra K. Shiv Kumar 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 a clean teeth. Also going is the Registration of Foreigners' Act, 1939, which requires foreigners staying in India for more than 180 days to report their movements. This should give a boost to India's tourism industry.

ACADEMIC WRITING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1410/141010-laws.html>

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

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about laws. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. LAWS: Make a poster about the laws in your country. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. CLEAN TEETH: Write a magazine article about a law that says people must have clean teeth. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to a lawmaker. Ask him/her three questions about laws. Tell him/her three laws you would like to change, and why. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F b T c F d T e F f F g T h T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. The 19th century
2. Law Minister
3. The statute book
4. The British Empire
5. Business
6. The police
7. Factory owners
8. Clean teeth
9. 1939
10. India's tourism industry

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. b 2. c 3. d 4. b 5. a 6. a 7. d 8. c 9. d 10. b

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)