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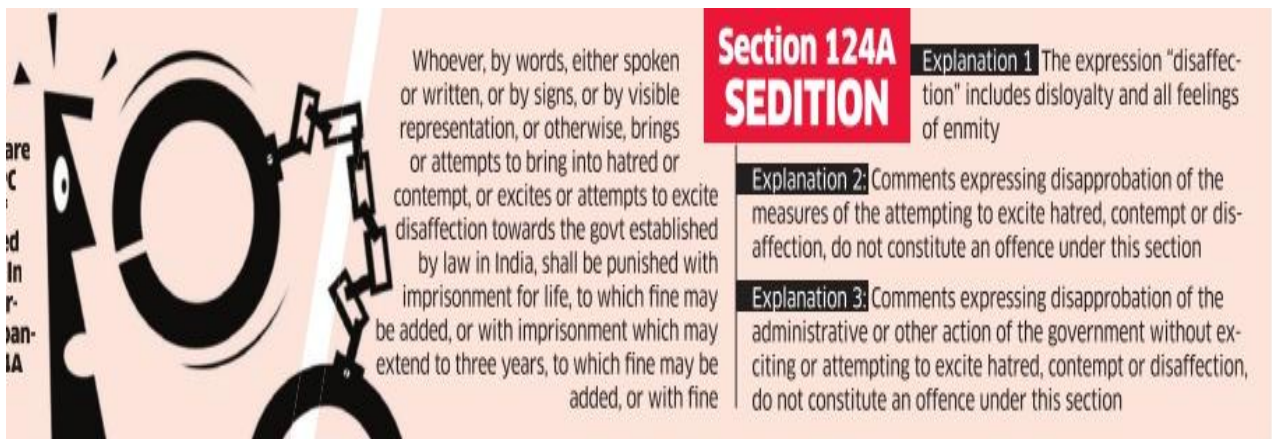
About Sedition...

Arrests under section 124A of IPC, or sedition, always make headlines, though few are ever convicted. **Only one conviction** was reported during 2014.

Introduced in the IPC in 1870, it has stayed on after Independence. **Of late**, there have been allegations of **widespread abuse and arbitrary use** of the law by police personnel.

UPA-II had asked the law ministry to study the implementation of the law and suggest amendments. In 2014, the Law Commission informed the government that it had completed the exercise of identifying certain provisions of the sedition law, and had formed separate panels to look into the contentious issues.

Historic data on cases filed under section 124A is not in public domain as the government began collecting figures only after 2014



Whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the govt established by law in India, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which fine may be added, or with fine

**Section 124A
SEDITION**

Explanation 1: The expression "disaffection" includes disloyalty and all feelings of enmity

Explanation 2: Comments expressing disapprobation of the measures of the attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, do not constitute an offence under this section

Explanation 3: Comments expressing disapprobation of the administrative or other action of the government without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, do not constitute an offence under this section

Only One Conviction in 2014



Persons Convicted: 1

Most in Bihar & Jharkhand

Jharkhand	18
Bihar	16
Kerala	5
Andhra	1
Assam	1
Chhattisgarh	1
Himachal	1
Odisha	1
West Bengal	2

High-Profile Sedition Cases



Divya Spandana: Case filed against actor-turned-politician for praising people of Pakistan & their hospitality

MP school: A school principal and 2 others in MP were slapped with cases, including sedition, for publishing a school diary that had a map of India without J&K

Kanhaiya Kumar: JNU Students' Union president Kanhaiya Kumar, Umar Khalid and Anirban Bhattacharya were slapped with sedition charges for allegedly raising anti-India slogans at a campus event



Hardik Patel: Patidar quota stir leader and his five associates accused of sedition, conspiring to wage war against the state along with criminal conspiracy over rioting and the violence that took place in wake of the huge rally in 2015

Aseem Trivedi: Kanpur-based artist charged with sedition; Arrested in Mumbai under IPC Section 124

Binayak Sen: PUCL vice-president accused of sedition by the Chhattisgarh govt for allegedly supporting Naxalites

Akbaruddin Owaisi: Majlis-e-Ittehadul Musliimeen MLA slapped with the charge by district police of Karimnagar for the purported hate speech he delivered at Nirmal on Dec 22, 2013

Arundhati Roy: Writer, activist and Hurriyat leader Syed Geelani by Delhi Police for their "anti-India" speech at a seminar in 2010



Praveen Togadia: Rajasthan govt slapped sedition charge on self-proclaimed Hindu leader in 2003 for "waging war or attempting anti-national activity"; Was jailed on charges of defying the prohibitory orders and ban on distribution of tridents

Simranjit Singh Mann: SAD-Amritsar chief was booked for raising pro-Khalistan slogans on June 6, 2005 in the Golden Temple complex on the 21st anniversary of Operation Blue Star; had helped Bhindranwale and his men by distributing arms while he was posted in Faridkot as SSP in 1980; and was named in the assassination of former PM Indira Gandhi though the charge wasn't proved

