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#### CYBER LAWS (23CY512)

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#### UNIT-I

#### History of Internet: Early Development

- I 960s: ARPANET project funded by the U.S. Department of Defense.
- ARPANET connected research universities and defense contractors.
- Used packet switching technology to enable data transmission.
- Email became popular in the 1970s among academic and military users.

#### History of Internet: Commercialization

- I 980s: TCP/IP protocol standardized and adopted widely.
- 1989: Tim Berners-Lee proposed the World Wide Web.
- 1991: WWW made public, changed the way people accessed data.
- 1990s: Internet Service Providers (ISPs) began offering access to the public.
- Rapid expansion through the 1990s led to the dot-com boom.

# History of the World Wide Web

- Developed by Tim Berners-Lee at CERN in 1989.
- 1991: First website launched (info.cern.ch).
- Browsers like Mosaic (1993) and Netscape Navigator (1994) fueled web adoption.
- HTML, URLs, and HTTP became the foundation of the Web.
- E-commerce, social media, and streaming transformed online experiences.

# Need for Cyber Law: Overview

- The rise in internet use has led to increase in cybercrimes.
- Conventional laws were insufficient to address digital issues.
- Cyber laws regulate online behavior and protect digital rights.
- Provide a legal framework for e-commerce and online contracts.

#### Need for Cyber Law: Key Reasons

- Protect against hacking, identity theft, and data breaches.
- Ensure privacy and security of personal and financial data.
- Regulate digital content and prevent cyber terrorism.
- Promote trust and reliability in online transactions.

# Cybercrime on the Rise: Common Types

- Hacking: Unauthorized access to systems and networks.
- Phishing: Deceptive emails or websites to steal data.
- Malware: Viruses, worms, ransomware affecting systems.
- Cyberstalking and cyberbullying via social platforms.

#### Cybercrime on the Rise: Impacts

- Financial losses to individuals and businesses.
- Loss of privacy and exposure of sensitive data.
- Disruption of services (DDoS attacks, ransomware).
- Threats to national security and infrastructure.

# Key Cyber Law Terms - Part 1

- Cybercrime: Illegal activity using computers or networks.
- Hacking: Unauthorized intrusion into computer systems.
- Phishing: Fraudulent attempts to obtain sensitive data.
- Digital Signature: Cryptographic method to verify authenticity.

# Key Cyber Law Terms - Part 2

- Cyber Forensics: Investigation of digital crimes.
- Firewall: Security system that controls incoming/outgoing traffic.
- ISP (Internet Service Provider): Company offering internet access.
- Data Protection: Legal control over the access and use of personal data.

#### Need for Cyber Law in India – Overview

- India's digital economy and user base is rapidly growing.
- Cyber threats such as hacking, data breaches, and fraud are increasing.
- Need for protecting personal data and online transactions.
- Existing traditional laws were not equipped to handle cybercrimes.

#### Need for Cyber Law in India – Specific Reasons

- To provide legal recognition for electronic records and signatures.
- To regulate e-commerce and online banking.
- To curb cyber terrorism, child pornography, and digital harassment.
- To ensure national security in cyberspace.

#### History of Cyber Law in India – Early Stage

- Before 2000: No dedicated laws for cyber activities.
- Crimes involving computers handled under Indian Penal Code (IPC).
- Need for a comprehensive law felt with increasing online activity.
- Influence from UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Commerce (1996).

#### History of Cyber Law in India – IT Act, 2000

- Enacted on 17th October 2000.
- India's first law on electronic commerce and cybercrime.
- Provided legal recognition for electronic documents.
- Defined cybercrime and laid penalties for offenses.

#### Information Technology Act, 2000 - Key Objectives

- Grant legal recognition to e-documents and digital signatures.
- Facilitate electronic filing of documents with government agencies.
- Prevent and punish cybercrimes like hacking, phishing, and identity theft.
- Enable e-Governance and online contracts.

#### Information Technology Act, 2000 – Key Features

- Covers cyber offenses and data protection.
- Empowers law enforcement with investigation tools.
- Recognizes electronic records and digital signatures.
- Establishes Certifying Authorities and Cyber Appellate Tribunal.

# Other Laws Amended by IT Act, 2000

- Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860 to include cyber offenses.
- Indian Evidence Act, 1872 admissibility of electronic evidence.
- Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891 inclusion of digital records.
- Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 support for digital banking regulations.

#### National Policy on Information Technology 2012 – Vision

- Empower citizens and businesses through Information Technology.
- Make India a global hub for IT and IT-enabled services.
- Promote innovation and R&D in digital technologies.
- Ensure secure and reliable IT infrastructure.

#### National Policy on Information Technology 2012 – Key Goals

- Increase ICT contribution to GDP.
- Promote digital literacy and IT skill development.
- Enhance cyber security and data protection.
- Foster e-Governance and inclusive growth through IT.

#### UNIT-II

### Applicability of the IT Act, 2000

- Applies to the whole of India.
- Also applies to any offence or contravention committed outside India by any person.
- Covers all electronic records and digital communications.
- Applicable to companies, individuals, and intermediaries involved in digital transactions.

## Important Provisions of the Act

- Legal recognition of electronic records.
- Legal recognition of digital signatures.
- Use of electronic records and digital signatures in government and its agencies.
- Regulation of certifying authorities.
- Penalties and adjudication for cyber offences.

#### Digital and Electronic Signatures

- Digital Signature: Ensures authenticity and integrity of electronic documents.
- Electronic Signature: Broader term including various types of electronic authentication.
- Both provide legal validity to electronic records.

# Digital Signature under the IT Act, 2000

- Used to authenticate an electronic record.
- Must be secure and issued by a licensed Certifying Authority.
- Ensures non-repudiation and security of digital communications.

### **E-Governance**

- Promotes electronic governance and digital record maintenance.
- Allows filing of applications, forms, and other documents online.
- Facilitates delivery of services through electronic means.

#### Electronic Records: Attribution, Acknowledgement & Dispatch

- Attribution: Establishes authorship of electronic records.
- Acknowledgement: Confirms receipt of electronic records.
- Dispatch: Time and place of sending/receiving electronic communications.

# **Certifying Authorities**

- Licensed to issue Digital Signature Certificates (DSCs).
- Monitored by the Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA).
- Ensure security and validity of electronic signatures.

# **Electronic Signature Certificates**

- Issued by Certifying Authorities.
- Contains subscriber's public key, identity, and digital signature.
- Legally binding and recognized under the Act.

# **Duties of Subscribers**

- Generate key pair securely.
- Accept responsibility for protection of private key.
- Inform Certifying Authority in case of key compromise.
- Ensure usage aligns with certificate conditions.

# **Penalties and Offences**

- Cyber crimes like hacking, identity theft, phishing.
- Fines and imprisonment depending on severity.
- Adjudicating officers and Cyber Appellate Tribunal handle disputes.

### Intermediaries

- Entities like ISPs, web-hosting services, social media platforms.
- Required to observe due diligence and cooperate with authorities.
- Not liable for third-party content if acting as a neutral facilitator.

#### UNIT-III

#### Rules Issued Under IT Act, 2000

- Information Technology (Reasonable Security Practices and Procedures and Sensitive Personal Data or Information) Rules, 2011.
- The Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code Rules, 2021.
- Rules for Certifying Authorities.
- Cyber Appellate Tribunal (Procedure) Rules.
- Rules for electronic service delivery, electronic records retention, etc.

## **Electronic Commerce**

- Conducting business transactions through electronic means.
- Includes buying, selling, online banking, emarketing.
- IT Act provides legal recognition to electronic transactions.
- Enables e-filing of documents and epayment systems.
- Secures online data exchanges and communications.

# **Electronic Contracts**

- Legally valid under Section 10A of the IT Act.
- Formed through electronic communication like email, online forms.
- Offer, acceptance, and intention to contract are essential.
- Digital/electronic signatures authenticate contracts.
- Binding if compliant with legal formalities.

## **Cyber Crimes**

- Criminal activities involving computers or networks.
- Examples: Hacking, phishing, identity theft, data breaches.
- Punishable under IT Act and IPC provisions.
- Handled by Cyber Crime Cells across India.
- Increased regulation to ensure digital safety and trust.

## Cyber Frauds

- Fraudulent activities executed via digital means.
- Includes online scams, financial frauds, fake websites.
- Often target banking, e-commerce and personal data.
- Legal remedies available under IT Act & Indian Penal Code.
- Users advised to practice cybersecurity awareness and report incidents.

#### UNIT-IV

### Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY)

- Now part of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- Formulates policies on IT, electronics, and internet governance.
- Responsible for promotion of e-Governance and digital services.
- Implements IT Act provisions and cybersecurity policies.

# Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA)

- Established under the IT Act, 2000.
- Regulates functioning of Certifying Authorities (CAs).
- Issues licenses and ensures compliance with standards.
- Maintains trust in digital signature ecosystem.

## Cyber Appellate Tribunal

- Established to handle appeals against orders of adjudicating officers.
- Deals with disputes related to cyber crimes and contraventions under IT Act.
- Replaced by Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) in 2017.
- Ensures justice in digital and cyber law cases.

### Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (ICERT)

- National agency for responding to cyber security incidents.
- • Operates under MeitY.
- Issues alerts and advisories on latest cyber threats.
- Coordinates incident response, vulnerability handling and risk mitigation.

## **Cloud Computing**

- On-demand delivery of IT services over the internet.
- Includes storage, servers, databases, networking, software.
- Raises data security and jurisdiction concerns.
- Not directly covered under IT Act, but subject to data protection norms.
- Regulated indirectly through IT rules and MeitY guidelines.

#### Important Case Laws under IT Act

- Avnish Bajaj v. State (Bazee.com case): Liability of intermediaries.
- Shreya Singhal v. Union of India: Struck down Section 66A for violating freedom of speech.
- Sony Sambandh case: First conviction under IT Act.
- Nasscom v. Ajay Sood: Email spoofing declared illegal.
- Illustrates evolving interpretation of IT law by judiciary.



### Introduction to Cybercrime

- Cybercrime refers to illegal activities involving computers or digital devices.
- Includes hacking, identity theft,
  cyberstalking, phishing, online fraud, etc.
- Targets individuals, businesses, or governments.
- Rapid increase due to digital transformation and internet usage.

#### Procedure to Report Cybercrime

- Visit the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (www.cybercrime.gov.in).
- Choose 'Report Women/Child Related Crime' or 'Report Other Cybercrime'.
- Register complaint with local Cyber Cell or police station.
- Provide necessary details and evidence such as screenshots, emails, etc.
- FIR can be lodged under IT Act and Indian Penal Code (IPC).

### **Basic Rules for Safe Operations**

- Use strong, unique passwords and change them regularly.
- Install antivirus and update software frequently.
- Avoid clicking on suspicious links or downloading unknown attachments.
- Use secure websites (HTTPS) for financial transactions.
- Enable two-factor authentication where possible.

# Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013

- Enacted in response to rising crimes against women, including online harassment.
- Expanded the definition of sexual offences under IPC.
- Introduced new sections to cover stalking and voyeurism.
- Recognized online harassment as a punishable offence.

# Remedies for Online Harassment & Cyberstalking

- Section 354D IPC: Punishes stalking including online stalking (up to 3 years imprisonment).
- Section 509 IPC: Addresses obscene gestures, comments or emails.
- IT Act Section 66E: Punishes violation of privacy through electronic means.
- Victims can report anonymously and seek legal protection and restraining orders.
- Cyber Cells and women's helplines are available for assistance.