



A joint initiative of DSCI & Government of Telangana



Laws against cybercrimes

India has experienced a rapid digital transformation and has emerged as one of the largest hubs of technological innovation in the world over the last two decades. The digital revolution has also ushered in new platforms & methods for a variety of use & misuse of the Internet across the country.

Based on survey results from November to December 2019, Indian online users were most likely to have fallen victim to cybercrime as 80 percent of Indian respondents claimed to have experienced cybercrime.

(source: www.statista.com)

The country has witnessed a growing trend & a concerning spike in cybercrimes such as phishing, introducing malicious codes, identity theft, bank fraud, the transmission of sexually explicit materials, cyberstalking, and cyberbullying. This data reinstates that cybercrime awareness is the need of the hour.

What is cybercrime?

Cybercrime is any criminal activity that uses computers & internet networks as the instrument to compromise security & gain illegal access to any person or organization's sensitive data with the intention of stealing or causing harm.

Cybercrime can be categorized in two ways:

1. Computer as a target: Using a computer to attack other computers. E.g.: Hacking, Virus/Worm attacks, DOS attack etc.
2. Computer as a weapon: Using a computer to commit real-world crimes.

e.g. Cyber Terrorism, IPR violations, Credit card frauds, EFT frauds, Pornography etc.

What are cybercrime laws?

Over the years, cybercrimes in India have become very sophisticated and it has become very important for citizens to be aware of the types of cybercrimes, how to prevent them & laws that can protect them from cyberattacks.

Cybercrime laws in India are not a distinctly legal framework. With the anonymous nature of the Internet, it is easy for hackers & criminals to commit crimes and cyberbully. With the emphasis on cybersecurity laws, the Indian Cyber Act also known as The Information Technology Act 2001 or the internet law came into force.

List of cybercrime laws in India

There are a few predominant cybersecurity laws;

- Information Technology Act, 2000
- Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1980
- Companies Act of 2013
- NIST Compliance

Importance of cybercrime laws.

With increasing digitization and data growth, it is pivotal to armor up with the necessary resources to keep individuals as well as organisations safe and protected against cybercrime. The Indian Internet Laws were passed to offer legal recognition to online/electronic activities & records. The laws address important issues of security that are important for successful, safe and secure electronic/online transactions. They help validate digital signatures & provide for authentication of documents. It is important to be aware of cybercrime laws to stay protected against harmful cybercrimes. Laws exist to protect us from cybercriminals & hackers also necessary to take necessary precautions while surfing the internet.

As we increase the adoption of technology, cybercrime laws need to be constantly revisited and refined as per the need. With the current pandemic pushing the workforce into a remote working module, there is an increasing

need for safety and security. Lawmakers and enforcers need to stay vigilant to stay ahead of impostors. Every one of us needs to do our bit to stay safe and bolster efforts to help others' security.