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## CYBER LAW – REGULATORY COMMAND ON ILLEGAL PRACTICE OVER INTERNET

~ Aziz Anturkar<sup>1</sup>

### Abstract

*The increasing reliance on technology in everyday life has led to the need for regulations in the digital realm. Cyber law, also known as IT law or the law of the internet, is implemented by the Indian Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to provide legal validity for electronic documents, establish a framework for e-filing and e-commerce transactions, and provide legal structures to mitigate and monitor cybercrimes. Cyber law encompasses regulations concerning information technology, including computers and the internet, and includes elements of contract, intellectual property, privacy, and data protection laws. It also covers internet governance, with entities like ICANN managing domain names and IP addresses. Understanding the significance and objectives of cyber law is crucial for developing effective legal measures. As the digital landscape evolves, a proactive approach to cyber law is essential to protect individuals and entities from cybercrimes.*

### Keywords

*Cyber Law, Law of Internet, Cyber Crime, Ministry of Electronic & Information, ICANN  
(Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and numbers)*

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## INTRODUCTION

Cyber law, also known as internet law or information technology law, encompasses a wide range of legal issues and regulations related to the use of the internet, computers, and digital technology. It is a constantly evolving field of law that seeks to address the legal challenges and issues that arise in the digital age. Here are some key aspects and topics within cyber law, Cybercrime, Data Privacy and Protection, Intellectual Property, E-Commerce and Online Contracts, Cybersecurity, Social Media, and online Speech, Cyberbullying and Cyberstalking, Digital Evidence, Internet Governance, Cybersecurity Standards and Compliance and Emerging Technologies. It's important to note that cyber law can vary significantly from one jurisdiction to another, as different countries have their own legal frameworks and regulations related to cyberspace. Additionally, the field is constantly evolving as technology advances and new legal challenges emerge, making it a dynamic and complex area of law. Legal professionals, policymakers, and technologists work together to navigate these challenges and ensure the responsible and ethical use of technology in the digital age. <sup>2</sup> “CCFA” Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (1986) is the first cyber, presently, there are several cyber laws around the world, and the regulations, punishments and penalties differs as per law of land.

## TYPES OF CYBER CRIMES

### DDOS AND BOTNET

In general, this is one of the most important areas of cyber law. Hackers frequently target large websites in their quest to steal data or coerce payment from the site owners. Hackers accomplish this by increasing site traffic past its capacity, which finally causes the site to crash. It has been seen that when a website is found to be down, hackers are either found to steal the data or contact the owner of the site and demand a certain amount of payment to fix the issue. DDoS attacks of this kind are carried out via the botnet system.

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<sup>2</sup> Techtargget.com [https://www.techtargget.com/searchsecurity/definition/Computer-Fraud-and-Abuse-Act-CFAA#:~:text=The%20Computer%20Fraud%20and%20Abuse%20Act%20\(CFAA\)%20of%201986%20is,whose%20access%20exceeds%20their%20authorization.](https://www.techtargget.com/searchsecurity/definition/Computer-Fraud-and-Abuse-Act-CFAA#:~:text=The%20Computer%20Fraud%20and%20Abuse%20Act%20(CFAA)%20of%201986%20is,whose%20access%20exceeds%20their%20authorization.)

## **IDENTITY THEFT**

Cyber law defines identity theft as taking someone else's identity and using it to represent yourself as that person in an online forum. Because hackers steal your private and personal information and exploit it for malevolent purposes, this is a big concern in the field of cyber law.

## **CYBERSTALKING**

As per Cyber Law, cyberstalking is when someone tries to threaten, or is found to follow, or is found to extort money from another person, utilizing their social media accounts. Typically sensitive, the information the attacker gathers can lead to problems including security lapses, defamation, and other things.

## **SOCIAL ENGINEERING**

Social engineering is the idea of stealing by earning trust in cyber law. Criminals frequently use social engineering to prey on people who are far less knowledgeable about how social media, banks, and digital operations in general work. Criminals gain access to people's social media or bank accounts by assuming the identity of a reliable individual or customer service representative, and then they use that access to sell the data they have obtained. The accounts may occasionally be hacked for extortion purposes as well.

## **PUPs**

Cyber Law experts are found to frequently advise against installing unidentified software because of the obvious reason that malware softwares may be loaded into your machine and files may be stolen and used for malpractices. Additionally, malware can be set up on your computer with nefarious intent. Potentially Undesirable Programs (PUPs) are the name for this method of gaining access to or stealing data via adware, spyware, etc. As a result, it is typical for cyber law and computer specialists to urge clients to only use authorized service providers.

## **PHISHING**

Phishing is a crime in which hackers use links that appear genuine at first glance to access a victim's device. The link may refer to games, gift cards, etc. It's very uncommon for links to arrive in the

mail with claims that they may help you recover stolen data. Cyber law specialists from all across the world have recognized a wide range of offenses, some of which are listed above.

## **FOLLOWING ARE FEW EXAMPLES OF CYBER CRIMES HAPPENED AROUND THE GLOBE**

### **1. A Byte Out of History: \$10 Million Hack, 1994**<sup>3</sup>

Decades ago, when a major U.S. bank's computerized systems were discovered to be breached, a large group of resourceful thieves from multiple continents, which were led by a young computer programmer in St. Petersburg, Russia had started to begin stealthily stealing money. This kind of robbery is one of its kind as it was done without any arms.

### **2. Cambridge Analytica and Facebook (2018)**<sup>4</sup>

The issue of the Cambridge Analytica breach involved the unauthorized gathering of personal information of millions of Facebook users for political goals. This occurrence sparked conversations about data privacy, consent, and the role of social media platforms in safeguarding user data. Furthermore, it was the driving force behind significant regulatory adjustments, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) implemented in the European Union.

### **3. UIDAI Aadhaar Software hacked**<sup>5</sup>

In 2018, a major data breach occurred in India that compromised the personal information of over 1.1 billion individuals with Aadhaar cards. The UIDAI found that around 210 government websites in India had published Aadhaar information online, including sensitive details such as Aadhaar, PAN, mobile numbers, bank account numbers, IFSC codes, and other personal information of cardholders. This breach was made worse by the fact that unidentified merchants offered to sell Aadhaar information for Rs. 500 via

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<sup>3</sup>A Russian's hacking of a U.S. bank in 1994 may have been the first online bank robbery

<<https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/cyber/major-cases>>, <https://kratikal.com/blog/5-biggest-cyber-attacks-in-india/>

<sup>4</sup> Cambridge Analytica and Facebook: The Scandal and the Fallout So Far, By Nicholas Confessore April 4, 2018<

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/04/us/politics/cambridge-analytica-scandal-fallout.html>>

<sup>5</sup> UIDAI Aadhaar Software hacked <https://kratikal.com/blog/5-biggest-cyber-attacks-in-india/>

WhatsApp, while Aadhaar automobile printouts could be obtained for an additional Rs. 300, leading to widespread concern and fear among the public.

4. **ATM System hacked** <sup>6</sup>

In mid-2018, Canara Bank was targeted by cybercriminals who attacked the bank's ATM servers. The attack resulted in a total loss of 20 lakh rupees, with multiple bank accounts being compromised. According to sources, the hackers had access to personal information from more than 300 ATM cardholders, resulting in an estimated 50 victims. The attackers used skimming equipment to steal information from debit cardholders, which allowed them to carry out unauthorized transactions. The incident highlighted the need for banks to strengthen their cybersecurity measures to prevent such attacks in the future.

5. **Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015)** <sup>7</sup>

The constitutionality of Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, which allowed for the arrest of individuals for posting offensive content online, was challenged in a landmark case. In its verdict, the Supreme Court of India declared Section 66A unconstitutional and a violation of free speech. This ruling was a significant win for advocates of free speech, as it helped to safeguard the rights of individuals to express their opinions online without fear of arbitrary arrests or harassment. The decision also highlighted the need for a careful balance between freedom of expression and the regulation of online content to prevent hate speech and other forms of harmful speech.

6. **Financial Cybercrimes:**

Cases involving financial fraud, phishing, online banking fraud, and cryptocurrency scams have also been prevalent in India, leading to investigations and prosecutions under cybercrime laws.

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<sup>6</sup> ATM System hacked <https://kratikal.com/blog/5-biggest-cyber-attacks-in-india/>

<sup>7</sup> [Shreya Singhal vs U.O.I on 24 March, 2015, <https://indiankanoon.org/doc/110813550/>](https://indiankanoon.org/doc/110813550/)

## CYBER LAW IN INDIA: A BRIEF UNDERSTANDING <sup>8</sup>

Over 44,000 incidences of cybercrime are recorded in India each year. Karnataka leads among Indian states in terms of the prevalence of cybercrime. In India, data breaches cost an average of USD 2 million, per a 2022 Statista analysis. The effects of data breach occurrences are reflected in this financial impact.

The Indian Penal Code and the Information Technology Act of 2000 are India's two main pieces of legislation that govern cyber law. These legal frameworks offer the necessary rules and provisions to combat cybercrime, safeguard digital assets, and uphold people's rights online.

Indian cyber laws involve two key areas: hacking computers and using them to conduct crimes of various sizes. These crimes span a wide range of cybercrimes. Additionally, a wide range of areas are covered by Indian cyber law, including, among others, privacy rights and intellectual property rights.

A wide number of topics are covered by India's cyber legislation, yet it is crucial to remember that the following list is not all-inclusive. Other jurisdictions around the world may likewise address concepts of a similar nature. The many categories of cybercrimes are described below, along with the related legal safeguards.

### FRAUD

Identity theft, credit card fraud, and other financial crimes are all considered fraud under Indian cyber law, and they can result in fines, jail time, or both.

### COPYRIGHT

India's cyberlaw protects copyrighted works present on online forums. The Copyright Act and other relevant laws are used to determine penalties for infringements. The Act provides for civil and criminal remedies, with fines to imprisonment. The government has taken steps to strengthen cyberlaws to protect creators' rights and prevent online piracy.

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<sup>8</sup> <<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/cyber-laws-in-india/>>



## DEFAMATION

The right to free expression is guaranteed by the Indian constitution, but it is subject to restrictions; when these restrictions are exceeded, defamation results. Under cyber law, a person who disparages another person or a company will be held accountable. But what really counts as online defamation? In short, disseminating incorrect material or information without supporting documentation online is considered defamatory action under cyber law. In fact, with the increase in social media use, more cyber law protection against defamation is needed.

## HARASSMENT AND STALKING

Online users in India are protected from harassment and stalking under cyberlaw. Online harassment occurs when someone uses targeted language against you. Harassment is caused by situational conditions. Stalking occurs when someone is harassed using information obtained online. In India, stalking and harassment are serious offenses with consequences under both civil and criminal law.

## TRADE SECRETS

Trade secrets are typically private information about businesses. According to Indian cyber law, it is illegal to attempt to reveal sensitive information to the public or to use it for financial benefit. The severity of the harm suffered by the party who violated the law will decide the punishment for disclosing or exploiting trade secrets.

## IMPORTANCE OF CYBER LAW<sup>9</sup>

Cyber law is essential in our digital age as it protects digital assets, deters cybercrimes, governs online behavior, safeguards consumer and e-commerce rights, upholds intellectual property rights, ensures data privacy, and offers legal recourse. It plays a crucial role in maintaining legal order and security in the digital sphere for both individuals and companies.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://intellipaat.com/blog/what-is-cyber-law/>

## TYPES OF CYBER LAW

There are several types of cyber laws, each addressing specific aspects of digital activities and cybersecurity. Below are few common categories of cyber laws:

### 1. Privacy Laws:

Privacy laws regulate the collection, use, and protection of personal information online. Examples include the GDPR in Europe and the CCPA in the United States. These laws help to safeguard individuals' privacy and personal data.

### 2. Cybercrime Laws:

Cybercrime laws target criminal activities carried out online, such as hacking, identity theft, online fraud, and cyberbullying. These laws define offenses, penalties, and procedures for investigation and prosecution, with the aim of deterring and preventing such crimes. They play a crucial role in maintaining legal order and security in the digital sphere.

### 3. Data Breach Notification Laws:

Data breach notification laws mandate that organizations notify affected individuals and authorities in the event of a data breach. These laws aim to ensure transparency, help individuals take necessary actions to protect themselves, and prevent further harm. They play an essential role in safeguarding personal information and promoting accountability for organizations that collect and handle sensitive data.

### 4. Intellectual Property Laws:

Intellectual property laws protect digital content, patents, trademarks, and copyrights in the digital realm, addressing issues like copyright infringement and online piracy. They safeguard the rights of creators and encourage innovation and creativity.

### 5. Cybersecurity Laws:

Cybersecurity laws mandate organizations to implement measures to protect their digital infrastructure and sensitive data. They set standards for data security

practices and help to prevent data breaches and cyber attacks, safeguarding sensitive information and ensuring operational continuity.

**6. E-Commerce and Online Contracts:**

Laws related to e-commerce and online contracts establish legal frameworks for online transactions, electronic signatures, and consumer rights. They provide a basis for resolving disputes in the digital marketplace, protecting both consumers and businesses and promoting trust in online commerce.

**7. Social Media and Online Content Regulations:**

Regulations governing social media and online content address issues such as hate speech, defamation, and harmful content. They set guidelines for the removal or restriction of such content, promoting responsible online behavior and protecting users from harm.

**8. Computer Crime Laws:**

Computer crime laws specifically target offenses involving computer systems and networks, including unauthorized access, malware distribution, and cyberattacks on critical infrastructure. They help to prevent such crimes and provide legal recourse for victims, promoting security and accountability in the digital sphere.

**9. Cryptocurrency and Blockchain Regulations:**

As digital currencies and blockchain technology gain prominence, regulations address issues like cryptocurrency trading, initial coin offerings (ICOs), and blockchain-based contracts. These regulations provide legal frameworks for the use and exchange of digital assets, promoting transparency, protecting consumers, and preventing financial crimes.

**10. International Cybersecurity Agreements:**

International laws and agreements like the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and bilateral cybersecurity agreements between nations focus on cooperation in combating cybercrimes and promoting cybersecurity best practices. They establish a common framework for addressing cyber threats and coordinating responses to cyber incidents across borders.

These are only a few instances of the various cyber laws that are in place to oversee and control different facets of digital activity, safeguard people's rights, and guarantee cybersecurity in the digital era. From one jurisdiction to another, the specific laws and rules can differ greatly.

### **OBJECTIVES OF CYBER LAW**<sup>10</sup>

The following goals guided the implementation of cyber law legal protections by legislators: The following aspects of cyber legislation make using the internet significantly safer:

- To act as a buffer between users and internet data predators.
- To ensure that the grievances are resolved properly.
- Cyberlaw helps prevent financial crimes and protect consumers from harm by implementing measures like two-factor authentication and fraud detection, promoting transparency and trust in digital transactions.
- Make sure to halt any activity whenever a password is entered incorrectly.
- Assisting people to make them knowledgeable and giving them assistance whenever necessary.
- To safeguard the nation's security.

The following are just a few of the many benefits of cyber law:

- Providing a better E-commerce website which can provide an enhanced security.
- Under the purview of the Cyber Law, the courts shall provide a proper resolution of the disputes.
- The court will hear complaints about e-documents and give a proper recognition.
- Considering every security concern as an opportunity to improve the services to the customers.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://intellipaat.com/blog/what-is-cyber-law/>

- Ensuring proper data usage by the businesses and reducing breach of data.

A few of the well-known facets of cyber law include those that were just discussed.

## Jurisdictional Challenges <sup>11</sup>

Jurisdictional challenges are among the most complex and critical issues in the realm of cyber law when it comes to regulating and combating illegal practices over the internet. These challenges arise due to the global and borderless nature of the internet, which often transcends traditional legal boundaries. Here are some key jurisdictional challenges for cyber law in addressing illegal practices on the internet:

1. **Cross-Border Nature of Cybercrimes:** Many cybercrimes, such as hacking, phishing, and online fraud, can be initiated from one country but have victims or impacts in other countries. Determining which jurisdiction should prosecute or investigate these cases can be highly complex.
2. **Lack of Harmonized International Laws:** Cybercrime laws and regulations vary significantly from one country to another, making it difficult to harmonize legal standards. This disparity can create jurisdictional conflicts when pursuing cybercriminals across borders.
3. **Extradition and Legal Assistance:** Extradition treaties and legal assistance agreements between countries may not cover cybercrimes comprehensively or may lack specific provisions related to digital evidence, making extradition and cross-border cooperation challenging.
4. **Anonymous Offenders:** Cybercriminals often hide their identities behind layers of encryption and anonymity tools, making it difficult to identify and apprehend them. This anonymity complicates the process of determining jurisdiction and pursuing legal action.

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<sup>11</sup> < [https://nja.gov.in/Concluded\\_Programmes/2022-23/P](https://nja.gov.in/Concluded_Programmes/2022-23/P)

1299\_PPTs/2.Jurisdictional%20Issues%20in%20Adjudication%20of%20Cyber%20Crimes.pdf>

5. **Cloud Computing and Server Locations:** Data and services are often hosted on servers located in different countries. Determining the location of data and servers relevant to a cybercrime case can raise jurisdictional questions.
6. **Data Privacy Laws:** Different countries have varying data protection and privacy laws. Gathering evidence related to cybercrimes may involve accessing personal data, leading to conflicts with privacy regulations.
7. **National Sovereignty and Jurisdiction:** Countries may assert their sovereignty and jurisdiction over internet-related matters differently. Some nations may seek to exert control over online content, raising issues of censorship and conflicting legal standards.
8. **Jurisdiction Shopping:** Cybercriminals may strategically operate from jurisdictions with lax cybercrime laws or enforcement, making it difficult for authorities to prosecute them effectively.
9. **Jurisdictional Challenges in Civil Cases:** In addition to criminal cases, jurisdictional issues also arise in civil cases related to cyber defamation, intellectual property infringement, and online contractual disputes.
10. **International Cooperation:** Effective international cooperation is essential to address jurisdictional challenges. Organizations like INTERPOL and international agreements, such as the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, aim to facilitate cross-border collaboration.
11. **Conflict of Laws:** Determining which country's laws should apply in a given situation when multiple jurisdictions are involved can lead to conflicts of laws and legal uncertainties.

To address these jurisdictional challenges, efforts are ongoing at national and international levels to enhance legal frameworks, improve international cooperation, and develop mechanisms for resolving conflicts related to cyber law. However, achieving consensus and harmonization in this complex and rapidly evolving field remains a significant ongoing challenge for policymakers, law enforcement agencies, and legal experts worldwide.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR STRENGTHENING CYBER LAW <sup>12</sup>

Creating a robust and effective regulatory framework for addressing illegal practices over the internet is crucial in today's digital age. Here are some key suggestions for enhancing cyber law and regulatory measures in this context:

### 1. Harmonize International Standards:

- Encourage international cooperation and harmonization of cyber laws and standards to address jurisdictional challenges and facilitate cross-border investigations.

### 2. Strengthen National Legislation:

- Continually update and strengthen national cybercrime laws and regulations to address emerging threats and technologies.
- Consider enacting comprehensive legislation covering a wide range of cybercrimes, including hacking, identity theft, online fraud, and data breaches.

### 3. Establish Cybercrime Units:

- Develop specialized cybercrime units within law enforcement agencies with the expertise and resources to investigate and combat online illegal activities.

### 4. Enhance Cybersecurity Education:

- Promote cybersecurity awareness and education initiatives for the public, businesses, and government agencies to reduce vulnerabilities and enhance cyber resilience.

### 5. Promote Reporting Mechanisms:

- Establish user-friendly mechanisms for reporting cybercrimes, ensuring that victims and witnesses can easily report illegal activities without fear of reprisals.

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<sup>12</sup> < [275](https://www.upcounsel.com/cyber-law#:~:text=Some%20of%20the%20most%20effective,Improved%20Firewalls.></a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

**6. Strengthen Digital Forensics Capabilities:**

- Invest in digital forensics technology and training for law enforcement agencies to effectively gather and analyze digital evidence in cybercrime cases.

**7. Facilitate Cross-Border Cooperation:**

- Foster international collaboration among law enforcement agencies and organizations to share information, coordinate investigations, and pursue cybercriminals across borders.

**8. Data Protection and Privacy Laws:**

- Enforce robust data protection and privacy laws to safeguard individuals' personal information and ensure responsible handling of data by organizations and service providers.

**9. Combat Online Hate Speech and Extremism:**

- Implement regulations and policies to address hate speech, extremist content, and the spread of harmful ideologies online, while respecting free speech rights.

**10. Address Online Fraud and Scams:**

- Develop measures to combat online fraud, phishing, and financial scams, including public awareness campaigns and regulatory oversight of financial transaction.

**11. Tackle Intellectual Property Theft:**

- Strengthen laws and enforcement mechanisms to combat intellectual property theft, copyright infringement, and counterfeiting in digital spaces.

**12. Regulate Social Media and Content Platforms:**

- Consider appropriate regulations for social media and content-sharing platforms to address issues like disinformation, misinformation, and harmful content while respecting freedom of expression.



**13. Whistleblower Protection:**

- Enact legislation to protect whistleblowers who expose illegal activities online, encouraging individuals to report wrongdoing without fear of retaliation.

**14. Review and Update Legal Definitions:**

- Regularly review and update legal definitions of cybercrimes to account for evolving technologies and tactics employed by cybercriminals.

**15. Public-Private Collaboration:**

- Encourage collaboration between government agencies, the private sector, and civil society to collectively address cyber threats, share threat intelligence, and develop best practices.

**16. Capacity Building:**

- Invest in training and capacity building for law enforcement, judges, and legal professionals to ensure they have the skills and knowledge needed to handle cybercrime cases effectively.

**17. Alternative Dispute Resolution:**

- Promote alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, such as online mediation and arbitration, for resolving civil disputes in e-commerce and online contractual agreements.

**18. Regular Audits and Assessments:**

- Conduct regular audits and assessments of regulatory measures to ensure their effectiveness and make necessary adjustments based on evolving threats and technologies.

**19. Global Awareness Campaigns:**

- Launch global awareness campaigns to educate individuals about online safety, responsible internet usage, and the risks associated with illegal online activities.

## 20. Transparency and Accountability:

- Promote transparency and accountability in government surveillance and data collection practices, with clear regulations on the use of individuals' data for security purposes.

It's essential to strike a balance between regulatory measures that combat illegal practices on the internet and the preservation of individual rights and freedoms, including free expression and privacy. These suggestions aim to create a comprehensive and adaptable framework for addressing cybercrimes and maintaining a safe and secure digital environment.

## ARTICLES IN INDIAN CONSTITUTION RELATED TO CYBER LAW <sup>13</sup>

The Indian Constitution doesn't explicitly contain articles specifically related to "cyber law" since the Constitution was adopted in 1950, well before the advent of the internet and modern digital technologies. However, several provisions within the Indian Constitution indirectly relate to issues covered by cyber law. These include:

1. **Right to Privacy (Article 21):** Article 21 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the right to life and personal liberty, which has been interpreted by the Supreme Court to include the right to privacy. The right to privacy is relevant in cases related to data protection and online privacy.
2. **Freedom of Speech and Expression (Article 19(1)(a)):** Article 19(1)(a) guarantees the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression. While this right is crucial for free expression online, it is subject to reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2) to maintain public order and protect other interests, which can be relevant in cases of online hate speech or incitement.
3. **Protection of Personal Data:** While not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution, data protection has become an important aspect of modern legal discourse. The Supreme Court,

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<sup>13</sup> < <https://www.legalserviceindia.com/article/1146-Cyber-Crime-And-Law.html#:~:text=Section%2067%20of%20the%20Information,fi%20of%201%20lakh%20rupees>>

in its judgment on the Right to Privacy (Puttaswamy case), recognized the need for data protection laws and regulations.

4. **Freedom of the Press:** The freedom of the press, which is crucial for online journalism and digital media, is implicitly protected under Article 19(1)(a) as part of freedom of speech and expression.
5. **Directive Principles of State Policy:** Articles 38 and 39 of the Directive Principles of State Policy encourage the state to ensure the welfare of citizens, which can indirectly relate to issues like cybersecurity, digital infrastructure development, and protection from cybercrimes.
6. **Equality Before the Law (Article 14):** Article 14 guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of laws, which is relevant when considering issues of discrimination or unequal access to digital resources and opportunities.

While the Indian Constitution does not specifically address cyber law, it provides a framework of fundamental rights and principles that are relevant in the context of digital technologies and the internet. The development of specific cyber laws, regulations, and policies in India has largely occurred through legislative acts and regulations enacted after the adoption of the Constitution to address the challenges and opportunities presented by the digital age.

## HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF ON THE INTERNET

- One effective way to keep your social media accounts secure is by frequently changing your passwords. You can also use password manager programs to create strong passwords. Two-factor authentication is another option to increase security. Remember, every piece of information you post online can be used to access your account, so be careful and stay vigilant.
- Always inquire about the app's access rights. A specific number of permissions will be required when you download an app or visit a website. It is OK to request rudimentary permissions. However, promptly reject requests for access to sensitive material, such as

your gallery, if they are made. Even better, stop using the website right away or remove the app right away.

- While free WiFi may seem like an exciting opportunity, it can be a honeytrap set up by hackers to gain access to your device. When you connect to free WiFi, hackers can easily break into your device and steal your data, transmit viruses, and more. It's important to be cautious when using free WiFi and use a virtual private network (VPN) for added security. Stay safe and protect your personal information.
- Finally, always be wary of calls or texts that seem "too good to be true." Always report such calls or communications to the appropriate officials right away.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, cyber law's regulatory command over illegal practices on the internet plays a pivotal role in shaping the digital landscape. As technology continues to advance and our lives become increasingly intertwined with the online world, the importance of a robust legal framework cannot be overstated. This regulatory command serves as a beacon of guidance and protection, addressing a wide array of challenges posed by illegal practices in cyberspace.

Through a well-crafted cyber law, governments and international bodies strive to strike a delicate balance between preserving individual freedoms and safeguarding the collective security and welfare of society. It empowers law enforcement agencies to combat cybercrime, ensures the protection of intellectual property, fosters a safer and more inclusive online environment, and reinforces global cooperation to address transnational threats.

Moreover, cyber law is not static but adaptive, evolving alongside technological advancements and emerging threats. It requires continual updates and revisions to remain effective and relevant in the face of ever-changing circumstances.

In the grand scheme of the digital age, cyber law is a cornerstone for fostering trust, innovation, and progress in cyberspace. It provides individuals and businesses with the confidence to explore the vast potential of the internet while holding wrongdoers accountable for their actions. As we move forward, the continued development and enforcement of cyber law will be crucial in ensuring

that the internet remains a force for good, benefiting societies around the world while deterring and penalizing those who seek to exploit it for illegal gain.

Employees play a significant role in maintaining data privacy and cybersecurity within an organization. Corporate lawyers should collaborate with HR departments to develop comprehensive employee education and training programs. These programs should raise awareness about data privacy best practices, identify phishing attempts, emphasize the importance of strong passwords, and provide guidance on handling sensitive information. Ongoing training ensures that employees remain vigilant and informed about the evolving landscape of cyber threats.<sup>14</sup>

Data privacy and cybersecurity are essential components of corporate risk management in the digital age. By prioritizing data protection, implementing robust security measures, and complying with relevant regulations, organizations can safeguard their valuable information assets. Corporate lawyers have a vital role to play in guiding businesses through the complex landscape of data privacy and cybersecurity, ensuring legal compliance, and providing strategic counsel to mitigate risks and protect against cyber threats. By embracing a proactive approach and fostering a culture of security, organizations can in still trust in their customers, employees, and stakeholders, thereby fortifying their position in the digital marketplace.



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<sup>14</sup> Arcot Group, *Cybersecurity in the Digital Age: Ensuring Data Protection and Privacy*, <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/cybersecurity-digital-age-ensuring-data-protection-privacy/>.