

# Cybercriminal Jurisdiction

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**Abstract - Not long ago, cybercrime became a reality. Such crimes are aimed at either jeopardising the immense technological importance of data or exploiting it to perpetrate crimes that are not unlike traditional crimes, but are done in the cyberspace. As a result, contemporary societies are at danger of suffering significant losses. Cybercrime is carried out in the shadows, with no need for documentation or personal information. It is sent globally, bypassing borders and checkpoints. Furthermore, they are often carried out by astute, technically adept criminals who are capable of removing evidence before moving on to the next target. All of these things make it simpler to perpetrate such crimes. Countries throughout the globe are facing significant hurdles in executing their criminal laws when it comes to cybercrime. The purpose of this research is to explore and evaluate the issue of cybercrime jurisdiction, cybercriminal extradition legislation, international agreements, and associated judicial laws.**

**Keywords - Cybercrimes, Jurisdiction, cyber-world, computer.**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The current administration is actively encouraging digitization, which is a significant step forward in terms of the future and openness. As part of 'Digital India,' the government is focusing on connecting every corner of the country to the Internet, which will open up a slew of new possibilities, empower e-governance, and make it easier to conduct business from anywhere on the planet. In a 'Digital India,' technology assures that the citizen-government interaction is impenetrable. Every young person in our nation shares this ambition. Today, the world is looking to India for the next great thing. From retail outlets to government buildings, digital technologies are becoming more prevalent in daily life. Allow us to converse and share information among ourselves. Despite our efforts to create a "Digital India," cybercrime continues to expand its sphere of influence. Prior to commencing on the "Digital India" path, it is essential to have legislation in place to deal with any potential cyberspace-related offences.

Jurisdiction is the power to interpret and implement the law, as well as to governing and enacting laws. Legal entities, such as a court or a political leader, are eligible for this honour. The power to hear and determine a claim is referred to as the "jurisdictional district," which encompasses a certain geographic region. Jurisdiction is a legal phrase that refers to a certain territory with a specific authority to hear and decide a case. Jurisdiction is a legal term that refers to a certain territory that has a specific legal power. Jurisdiction can also be utilised to determine which

court a matter should be filed in. As a last point, jurisdiction refers to a court's inherent capacity to hear a matter and make a final ruling. Judges and courts are given constitutional authority to issue judgments and award remedies when presented with facts that have been proven or conceded, brought before them for review and determination by the appropriate tribunals, and decided either in favour of or against individuals.

## 2. DEFINITION

"State jurisdiction" is defined by D.J. Harris as "a state's ability under international law to regulate individuals and property through its municipal law." It involves both the ability to make regulations (prescriptive jurisdiction) and the ability to enforce them (enforcement jurisdiction) (enforcement jurisdiction). It is possible for a state's jurisdiction to be concurrent with or exclusive of that of other states. Depending on the circumstances, it might be a civil or criminal matter. For example, a state's jurisdiction is defined by the norms of jurisdiction.as well as the methods for implementing those laws. They aren't interested in the content of a state's law unless it professes to subject a person to it or provide procedures for enforcing it." The term "jurisdiction" refers to "the degree of each state's right to control conduct based on the outcomes of events." Legislation, the courts, or executive or administrative action may all be used to control a state's authority. International law and domestic law are both part of a state's jurisdiction..However, the first defines a legal range of state authority,

while the second determines exactly how and where it is exercised. Though there is a tight relationship between jurisdiction and sovereignty, jurisdiction and state sovereignty are not synonymous. Normally, each state has control over all people and things inside its borders. The concept of delegation of competence between nations in international law is a hazy one. International law is limited to criminal rather than civil law.

## 2.1 Jurisdictional Types:

There are two forms of jurisdiction:

- a. Civil law applies.
- b. Jurisdiction over crimes

### a. Civil law applies:-

When it comes to private international law is used by municipal courts in cases when a foreign element is present. In most cases, however, courts will not Jurisdiction cannot be exercised unless there is a "substantial link" between the foreign components involved and the forum state, either through loyalty or residency. An ultravires act might be defined as the exercise of jurisdiction without such a connection., resulting in international liability for the state. The issue of civil jurisdiction enforcement involving criminal sanctions is not significantly different from criminal jurisdiction over immigrants. Civil jurisdiction has been claimed by states on a broader basis than criminal jurisdiction, with the resulting reaction from other states being far more muted. This is also due to the fact that when a person is tried overseas for criminal offences, public opinion is far more easily inflamed than when a person is involved in civil actions.

### b. Jurisdiction over crimes:-

A "substantial relationship" criminal charges against the suspected perpetrator or offenders jurisdiction is also required in criminal cases. States often claim penal jurisdiction based on four general principles revealed by state experience. First, the territorial concept establishes jurisdiction based on the location of the crime. There are two more factors to consider: the nationality principles, which define jurisdiction based on nationality, even if the crime is committed outside of the country, or that of the victim. Third, the protective concept relates to state authority based on the state's national interest.

## 2.2 Jurisdictional Basis

The world is divided into 198 states. Which state has jurisdiction in which areas is determined by international law. In this sense, four primary goals should be kept in mind. As a first step, it is necessary to create jurisdictional limitations that balance each state's desire to exercise authority and promote its

own policies against each state's desire to avoid interfering with its own policies. as a result of foreign states exercising jurisdiction. The second is to acknowledge states' interdependence by ensuring that effective authority exists to help states achieve particular goals. Harmonizing rights between two or more states with concurrent jurisdiction, which implies each has power over the same matter, serves as the third purpose. The fourth purpose is to protect persons against the arbitrary exercise of jurisdiction by single states or groupings of states seeking to impose contradictory or compounding responsibilities on the same subject. As in the case of S.S. Lotus<sup>6</sup>, it isn't clear whether or whether a state may exercise jurisdiction simply because there is a recognised basis for it or, as in this case, even if it does not. As long as the state and the thing over which it is asserting authority have a close enough relationship, regardless of the conceptual approach used to identify it. Various basis of legislative jurisdiction, notably in the context of criminal law, have been identified in this regard. States may exercise jurisdiction over cases in various ways, so consider all of your options.

- **Jurisdiction over an area:**

This is the most common foundation for exercising state jurisdiction. Events that take place within a state's territorial boundaries, as well as people that live there. Even if their presence is just temporary, they are usually subject to the jurisdiction of the state's courts. It is possible, however, for an offence to be committed entirely inside the boundaries of a single state. Some crimes begin in one state but are completed in another. Which state has jurisdiction what happens if someone fires a gun over a country border, striking someone on the opposite side? Both statements are true. In accordance with the idea of subjective territoriality, the state is entitled to rule.

- **The principle of extraterritoriality:-**

The territoriality concept serves as the primary principle of jurisdiction in the system of customary international law. National laws may, on rare occasions, be applied extraterritorially if they are justified by one of the established principles of extraterritoriality There are four basic principles of public international law: the principle of active or passive personality, the concept of protection, and the universality principle.

- **The principle of an active personality:**

Even though a state's people are located beyond its borders, it has the authority to exercise jurisdiction over them under the nationality or active personality notion . To avoid disagreement with domestic police rules or public order, courts must

thus follow international law. In criminal law, the nationality principle refers to the ability of a state to adjudicate: can a state adjudicate a crime committed outside of its borders?) even if the criminal The person is no longer a citizen or has just recently become a citizen because of the crime. is justified by saying that criminals may evade punishment by changing their nationality after they commit the crime, and that in the second situation, if the country rule were applied, impunity may arise from naturalisation in a state that refuses to extradite its citizen.'

- **The principle of a passive personality:-**

If the individual who suffers injury or civil damage is a citizen of the state, the state may exercise extraterritorial jurisdiction over aliens. The basis for exercising passive personality or nationality jurisdiction is that a state has the right to protect its citizens from harm they may have suffered while abroad if the territorial state fails to prosecute the criminal and the state of forum has the ability to apprehend him. If he arrives voluntarily or as a result of extradition. It's also not clear whether the victim's nationality, which is definitely a valid claim of state, is also a sufficient jurisdictional link under international law. Most definitely, it is the strongest foundation for extraterritorial jurisdiction..The passive personality principle was challenged by several dissident voices in the passive personality debate.

- **Principle of safety:-**

The protective principle safeguards the state from foreign acts that undermine its sovereignty or political independence. Actual harm does not have to have occurred as a result of these activities for the protective principle to apply. In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, the city governments of northern Italy established protective jurisdiction. Before extradition was popular, European nations signed a treaty in the 15th and 16th centuries to limit the planning of political offences.

- **Principle of Universality:-**

This concept states that each state has the right to prosecute specific offences. In the case of a crime, "the nationality of the suspected or convicted offender, the nationality of the victim, or any other link to the state exercising such authority,"this is founded. Under the universality principle, any state may be subject to the jurisdiction of the act because of its nature.

. Although most states require some type of geographical relationship, such as the presence of a suspect on their soil, it is unclear if They are obliged to do so under international law. Under the university principle, a state may exercise jurisdiction over any

offence, independent of any connection to that state or the interests of other nations.

### **2.3 Jurisdiction in the Internet**

The term "cyber jurisdiction" refers to the ability of a system operator or user to set and enforce rules in "an apparent virtual community" interacting in cyberspace or virtual space in the cyber world, which is perceived as a place on the internet but is not subject to normal government regulation. "Cyber jurisdiction" refers to the jurisdiction of real-world governments and courts over internet users and their conduct in the virtual realm of cyberspace. Because internet users and the gear they use are not virtual, but rather have a real presence in one or more nations, jurisdiction may be exercised in cyberspace or cyberjurisdiction over those countries. As a legal notion, cyber jurisdiction is still in its early stages. Because the internet has caused boundaries to vanish, a netizen may be unaware of who he is communicating with or where the person is situated. In such a situation, which court will have jurisdiction to decide a legal dispute between two people communicating on the internet is still an issue that has yet to be satisfactorily resolved. There must be legislation specifying which state's laws apply to certain events occurring in cyberspace and which state's laws apply to internet service providers, or which state laws apply to any event in cyberspace at all.

### **2.4 Cyber Jurisdiction Types:-**

The following cases have issues with cyber jurisdiction.

- (i) Cyber jurisdiction in national cases
- (ii) In international cases, cyber jurisdiction

- **In national cases, cyber jurisdiction exists:-**

In civil cases, cyber jurisdiction arises the commission of an out-of-state civil law infringement as a result of the use of an internet-hosted website or other online content. Federal courts in the United States follow the law of the forum state when evaluating whether a defendant is subject to jurisdiction, subject to the Due Process Clause's constraints.. The following examples demonstrate this: In the case of McDonough vs. Fallon Mc Eillgot Inc28, A non-Californian defendant developed a website that was accessed by a Californian. Following that, a disagreement emerged, and the case was taken to federal court.

At first, cyber jurisdiction was only a concern in civil disputes. However, in the 1996 case of United States vs. When it came to criminal cases, Thomas 32, internet jurisdiction was a problem. There were

two defendants in this case who started a pornographic bulletin board from their California home in 1991, which was accessible by members with their own computer passwords. The conviction was upheld by USDC for EDT on appeal, based on a statute that prohibits the use of interstate commerce to broadcast obscene material. *Miller vs California* was a case where the court utilised the modern community standard. 33 An explanation of obscenity was to be considered according to what the average person considers obscene in the existing community norms. And while the topic in this case was not obscene by California Bay Area standards, it was by Tennessee standards.

- **In International Cases, Cyber Jurisdiction:-**

This issue concerns Yahoo Auctions, a company based in the United States that sells Nazi-era goods on its website. The objects were for sale online in the United States, and they are available and viewable in France over the internet. In France, it is illegal to post or exhibit Nazi-era memorabilia on the internet or in public. As a consequence, a lawsuit was launched against Yahoo! Inc. in A corporation located in the United States that sells to France. A French court has ordered Yahoo! Inc. to block French citizens' access to Nazi literature that is accessible online. Because Yahoo! is located in the United States, the French court was unable to impose or execute its jurisdiction finding on the company. The United States was under no obligation to follow the French court's verdict. In the United States, the French court was powerless to enforce its findings. According to USA Law Company, there has been no wrongdoing in their jurisdiction. This judicial view on jurisdiction was further refined. As far as jurisdiction is concerned, this U.S. ruling has had a significant impact.

The CBDT, an Indian statutory organisation, was allegedly hacked by Pakistani hackers. This was not an unusual occurrence. During the Kargil war in 1999, Pakistani hackers frequently hacked and brought down many government websites. While the government had previously refused to file cases of hacking, the police did so in the case of the CBDT website hacking. However, no effective breakthrough or progress has been made in this case. The suspected Pakistani hacker is positioned outside of India's national boundaries, which explains why no action has been taken. India has no legal authority to detain such individuals outside of its borders. It's just going to make things more difficult, the neighbouring country does not identify such individuals as hackers, instead referring to them as patriots. As a result, in this scenario, registering a cybercrime case where the culprit is physically located outside of India's geographical limits becomes increasingly pointless. India is not alone in this predicament, and it is in the same boat as other countries facing similar difficulties.

## 2.5 IT ACT, 2000

It was unsurprising to see IT Act of 2000 enacted, given the widespread use of computers in all aspects of our lives. Many people were taken aback by the speed with which the enactment took place. The Ministry of Information Technology was established in 1999 with the massive task of transforming India into an IT superpower by 2008. In less than a year, India passed its first statute relating to information technology, modelled after (UNCITRAL). Parliament passed the IT Act of 2000 (hereafter "the I f Act") on May 15, 2000, the President approved it on June 9, 2000, and it was notified to take effect on October 17, 2000.

## 2.6 Premises, Preamble and Focus

The UNCITRAL Law on Electronic Commerce served as the foundation for the Indian Act. The UN General Assembly Resolution adopting this Model Law also calls on members to give the Model Law favourable consideration when enacting or revising national laws in order to ensure legal uniformity around the world. When it comes to government services, the Model Law emphasises the need of uniform national law when it comes to alternatives to paper-based communication and information storage as well as the use of dependable electronic records in member states. It serves as a starting point for identifying and discussing areas where the law could be amended to take into account new technology, as well as providing specific globally agreed-upon rules for dealing with the challenges.

## 2.7 The Act's Objective

Electronic transactions are popular in India<sup>1</sup>, as they are in other areas of the world, but without legal protection. <sup>2</sup> Electronic commerce, sometimes known as e-commerce, has grown in popularity, necessitating legal protection for such transactions. The IT Act of 2000, passed by the Indian Parliament, was a watershed moment.

This Act has three objectives: to respond to and give effect to the United Nations' call for all states to give Model Law favourable consideration when enacting or revising their laws in order to facilitate harmonisation of the laws governing alternatives to paper-based methods of storage; to respond to implement the United Nations' invitation to examine Model Law when drafting or modifying their legislation in order to assist the harmonisation of the rules regulating the use of electronic means to replace paperbased methods of record keeping. Electronic commerce, or "e-commerce," is a term used to describe transactions incorporating electronic data exchange and other types of electronic communication, sometimes referred to as "electronic data interchange." making it simpler to submit documents online with government

agencies in order to enhance government service delivery by using correct electronic records.

## 2.8 Preamble

The Act's preamble states Act to recognise electronic data interchange and other electronic communications, commonly known as "electronic commerce," which uses alternatives to paperbased methods of communication and storage for transactions, to facilitate electronic filing with government agencies and amend the IPC, 1860, "An Act"

## 2.9 The Act's Scope

Because of the realities on the ground, such as a lack of infrastructure for new technology, computer knowledge, and functional analogues, the Indian Parliament chose to limit the scope of the IT Act. –

(a) a negotiable instrument

(b) a power of attorney

(c) an Indian trust

Any type of document or transaction that the government may publish in the official gazette On October 17, 2000, IT Act went into effect, covering the entire country of India, including the state of Jammu & Kashmir. Despite any other legislation that may be in place at the time, the IT Act's provisions go into effect immediately. It also covers any crime or violation done outside of India by anyone, regardless of nationality, if the act or violation affects a computer, computer system, or computer network in India. The IT Act's extraterritorial scope is not uncommon. Other jurisdictions' IT-specific legislation also contains a clause granting extraterritorial jurisdiction. The transnational nature of the Internet, of course, necessitates such provision. These provisions, however, can only be implemented if enforcement agencies and the government work together. azette.

## 3. CONCLUSION

The International Cyber Crime Treaty is also the first international treaty addressing any topic relating to cyber laws. The pact isn't flawless, but then again, no treaty is. However, it is not a bad place to start when it comes to international attempts to regulate and combat cybercrime. While the advantages of the technological revolution have touched every country on the planet, most countries lack a specific domestic legislation to address the issue of cybercrime. There are no bilateral or multilateral treaties between the countries. There is no such international agreement, convention, declaration, protocol, or resolution to deal with cross-border cyber crimes, at least to the best of the current authors' knowledge. In the

absence of all of these, nations have become exposed to cyber-threats. As a result, there is no doubting that a worldwide agreement on the methods and means of combating cybercrime is urgently needed in order to handle the issue holistically.

The human mind's capacity is unimaginable. It is possible to completely eradicate cybercrime from the internet. It is possible to examine them. History shows that no law has ever succeeded in completely removing crime from the world. Only by making laws more strictly enforced and educating the public about their rights and obligations can we hope to reduce crime. To combat cybercrime, the Indian Parliament has approved two tactics. It has revised IPC to explicitly encompass cybercrime and included a provision in the IT Act of 2000.

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