

Preface

The convergence of computer networks and telecommunications facilitated by the digital technologies has given birth to a common space called 'cyberspace'. This cyberspace has become a platform for a galaxy of human activities which converge on the Internet. The cyberspace has, in fact, become the most happening place today. Internet is increasingly being used for communication, commerce, advertising, banking, education, research and entertainment. There is hardly any human activity that is not touched by the Internet. Internet has something to offer to everybody and in the process it only increases and never diminishes.

The cyber *manthan* has bestowed many gifts to humanity but they come with unexpected pitfalls. It has become a place to do all sorts of activities which are prohibited by law. It is increasingly being used for pornography, gambling, trafficking in human organs and prohibited drugs, hacking, infringing copyright and violating individual privacy.

Well, the new medium which has suddenly confronted humanity does not distinguish between good and evil, between national and international, between just and unjust; it only provides a platform for the activities which take place in human society. Law as the regulator of human behaviour has made an entry into the cyberspace and is trying to cope with its manifold challenges. Many believe that as the Internet has developed in the absence of laws so no laws should apply to the Internet. But law as a regulator of human behaviour is as much applicable to online human activities as it is applicable to the offline activities. So, the question is not 'whether law applies to the Internet'—rather it is 'how law is applicable on the Internet'.

The present book 'Legal Dimensions of Cyberspace' discusses various laws as they apply to cyberspace. It elucidates legal framework for commerce, contracts, intellectual property protection, privacy and crimes in cyberspace.

The Indian Law Institute was first in India to start a diploma course in Cyberlaws in the year 2001 under a project granted by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. The present book is an outcome of this project.

The book will be of immense value to students and of special interest to the legal fraternity and all those who are concerned with the activities in cyberspace.

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