



B.Com Honours

Semester III

Calicut University

Business Regulations

Course Code: COM3CJ201 • Module 4 Notes

1. Cyber Law & Information Technology Act, 2000

With the surge in digital business, e-commerce, and digital banking, Cyber Law has become a vital branch of business regulation. The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 provides legal recognition for electronic transactions, digital signatures, and safeguards against cyber crimes.

E-Commerce & Digital Signatures

- **Legal Recognition:** Section 4 of the IT Act grants electronic records the same legal status as written paper documents.
- **Digital Signature:** An electronic authentication method using asymmetric cryptography (public and private key pairs) to verify document integrity and sender identity.
- **Electronic Contracts:** Contracts formed through electronic means (emails, website click-wrap agreements) are valid and enforceable in court.

Cyber Crimes and Penalties

Types of Cyber Crimes

- **Hacking (Sec 66):** Unauthorized access to computer systems or data destruction.
- **Identity Theft (Sec 66C):** Fraudulently using another person's electronic signature or password.
- **Cyber Terrorism (Sec 66F):** Threatening the unity, integrity, security, or sovereignty of India using digital networks.

Investigation & Adjudication

- **Adjudicating Officer:** Appointed under the IT Act to assess civil damages up to ₹5 Crores.
- **Cyber Appellate Tribunal (CAT):** Hears appeals against orders passed by adjudicating officers.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Cyberspace

IPR protection in the digital domain addresses:

1. **Copyright in Software & Websites:** Protecting source code, multimedia content, and digital literature from illegal copying.
2. **Domain Name Disputes:** Preventing **Cybersquatting** (registering trademarked brand names as domain names to sell them for profit).

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