



## Editorial

# Police & Polices: Lack in legal & ethical issues in present digital age

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India's rapid push toward digitization through initiatives like Digital India and Smart Cities has outpaced its focus on cyber security. With the rapid net banking and constant rise of digital transactions, India has become a hotspot for digital fraud, from QR code scams, fake UPI interfaces to phishing links disguised as government instructions and personal economic greed of people. There are also cases involving online harassments, Fraudsters depicting to be Judges, Custom officers and police officers to dupe ordinary citizens especially senior citizens, women, and the less digitally aware—into transferring money or revealing sensitive information. Cybercriminals are constantly finding new ways to exploit unsuspecting users. Despite awareness campaigns, many citizens—especially the elderly and less tech-savvy—remain easy targets.

Local police forces, especially in smaller towns, lack the tools and training to handle cybercrime effectively. Victims of digital extortion or hacking often face delays, confusion, and under-reporting. Without investment in cyber forensic capabilities and centralized response units along with the well qualified, trained and experienced work force, until justice will remain sluggish and uncertain.

While the data protection laws were recently passed in 2023 and involved key features such as Consent based processing, right to access and correction, Data fiduciaries, penalties for data breaches and misuse, Data Protection Board etc. The Data protection laws holds too much power to centre in terms of rule-making and exemptions but are far weaker than the EU's GDPR in terms of Individual right, autonomy of Authority and Cross-border Data Flow and also on the

subject of their application and implementation at the ground level.

It is clear that India's law enforcement machinery is still catching up with the pace and complexity of cybercrime. Especially in the metropolitan cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru have specialized cybercrime units, the vast majority of police stations across the country lack trained personnel or forensic tools to investigate digital offenses. Therefore, a strong need to implement adequate measures to counter such issues in the big and populous country to overcome the digital and cybercrimes at large paces for reaching national level security.

## Conflict of Interest

None.

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