

# Patriarchal Face of Cyber Stalking

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## ABSTRACT:

Although related to stalking and other forms of harassment, cyber stalking is a new form of deviant behavior about which comparatively little is known. It is argued that cyber stalking has arisen as a result of increased access to information communication technology, in particular the Internet.

Legislation from the UK, US, Canada and Australia fails to define cyber stalking. However, it is recognized that victims are offered limited protection from this form of harassment. Legal definitions of stalking and harassment fail to take into account many of the behaviors associated with cyber stalking, such as electronic surveillance.

Existing definitions of stalking and cyber stalking have a number of deficiencies, such as the fact that an incidence of cyber stalking may involve more than one victim. In attempting to define cyber stalking as a form of behavior associated with harassment and stalking, the experience of victims is marginalized. In addition it becomes difficult to offer protection to members of the public. The main targets of cyber stalking are the females due to the patriarchal mindset that still exists and the ratio between men and women.

This paper proposes a formal definition of cyber stalking in an attempt to encourage discussion and stimulate further research. The proposed definition encompasses many of the behaviors associated with cyber stalking and seeks to overcome many of the difficulties identified within the discussion and also discusses about how women are the main targets of cyber stalking and how the problem can be resolved.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Digital stalking is a moderately new sort of digital fear based oppression wrongdoing. In spite of the fact that it regularly gets a lower need than digital psychological oppression, it is a vital worldwide issue. Due to new advances, it is striking in various structures. Because of the Internet's arrangement of secrecy and security, it is expanding rapidly. Legitimate acts to shield individuals from digital stalking are geographically restricted to the concerned state or nation. This exploration surveys digital stalking, its methodologies, impacts, and arrangement of legitimate acts, and measures to avert it. This research will mainly be confined to vulnerability of women with respect to cyber stalking. In India, there are millions of Internet users<sup>2</sup>

Now who are frequenting the cyber space on a regular basis for professional, commercial, socializing and educational purposes? Since the IT sector in India saw a boom in the 1990's, almost every household falling in the economic zone of moderate income groups to high income groups, have internet access at home, and people from the age group of 13 to 60 years, are regularly using the internet either at home, at work places, at educational institutes, or at cyber cafes. However, alongside internet-reliance, exploitation of 'digital natives' has disdainfully developed. India has a restrictive enactment committed for data innovation, e-governance, e-business and furthermore e-socialization to a specific degree; this has barely helped in checking the regularly

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<sup>2</sup>criminal law by P.S.A. Pillai, 12<sup>th</sup> edition, lexis nexis

expanding exploitation of people on the Internet in India.<sup>3</sup>

- **Meaning of cyber stalking**

Cyber stalking can be characterized as debilitating conduct or undesirable advances coordinated at another utilizing the Internet and different types of on-the-web and PC interchanges. This can incorporate email; interpersonal interaction locales, for example, Facebook, Twitter, and Tumbler; Google looks; and online catalogues, amongst others. The principle reason for this exploration is to tell you about platitude of digital shrewdness and the laws to secure it. The purpose behind picking this point is that a large portion of the general<sup>4</sup> population is confronted with this issue of digital stalking. Commonly, casualties were focused on in light of the fact that they-a person or a worker, was a piece of business bargain turned sour, and so cyber stalking is a criminal offense under different state anti-stalking, defamation and harassment laws. Digital stalking can take numerous forms, including and not limited to harassment, shame and mortification of the casualty, purging financial balances or other monetary control. For example, demolishing the casualty's FICO rating, annoying family, companions and businesses.

## II. ROOTS OF CYBER STALKING

History tells us that in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, beating wives was considered a legal way for husbands to exercise their authority over their wives. As the years passed, laws were made to reduce such episodes. In any case, it is apparent that aggressive behavior at home has not ceased, but instead expanded over time. It's terrible to realize that women, who were beforehand mishandled by just their spouses, have begun being mistreated by their fathers, siblings, and at grievous times, manhandled by their kids as well. Individuals, who were either immediate relatives or a part of the family, as what occurred within a family remained inside, and gave a feeling of namelessness to the abusers, perpetrated abusive behavior at home. It merits saying that ladies were by all account not the only casualties of aggressive behavior at home. To a little extent, this issue likewise confronted men. In the late twentieth century, humanity was honored with the most creative innovation that was set to change the world and how we live in it – the web. In any case, with each preferred standpoint, the web conveys to us, that there are an equivalent number of drawbacks that have gone along and kept on frequenting humankind. The web furnishes clients with obscurity, enabling them to cover their personality voluntarily. All things considered, everybody remains excessively worried about their words and activities, as they can later be utilized to judge them. In any case, on the web, and behind shrouded personalities, individuals, or as we'll call them cyber stalkers, can hone more current types of aggressive behavior at home – cyber stalking, which is significantly more harming than conventional abusive behavior at home. In a current review conducted by the

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<sup>3</sup>www.cyberbranchusa.com

<sup>4</sup>Urbandictionary.com

Domestic Violence Resource Center of Victoria (DVRCV), it was discovered that 98% of abusive behavior at home casualties additionally experienced innovation encouraged mishandling. While there are numerous laws accessible to consider individuals responsible who take part in abusive behavior at home, it's hard to secure cyber stalkers as a rule as they hole up behind pseudo personalities and stay unknown. The trouble that law implementation offices faced in securing these unknown cyber stalkers has made ladies exceptionally powerless and uncovered, as per senior scientist at DVRCV, Doctor Delanie Woodlook.

- **Worldwide Impact Cyberstalking**

Cyber stalking is a worldwide catastrophe that influences a huge number of ladies every year. Its impacts are so adversely affecting the psychological state of cyber stalking casualties that they frequently depend on hurting themselves. Much the same as abusive behavior at home deceived ladies in noteworthy extents; cyber stalking additionally generally defrauds ladies. Be that as it may, men are not by any stretch of imagination safe from it either. Reviews propose that while 1 in six ladies are casualties of cyber stalking, 1 in 19 men are additionally digital stalked. It's shocking to realize that cyber stalking casualties are for the most part young ladies, matured in the vicinity of 12 and 18, jumping profound into the cyber stalking measurements, obviously ladies are the prime focuses of most cyber stalking cases. In view of the preservationist mindset that prevails in the brains of the majority, ladies are relied upon to comply, take after and not have a conclusion or decision of their own. Cyber stalking Statistics recommend that most casualties knew the reason they were being cyber stalked, regardless of whether they didn't know the cyber stalker themselves. These reasons were recognized as issues and conflicts with a personal accomplice, companion, flat mate or neighbors. Some cyber stalking casualties even claim that their cyber stalkers not just stalked them online on their social profiles, but in addition tapped their cameras and amplifiers on savvy gadgets, and knew about their each activity and move.

**Legal Recognition:**

- California is the first country adopted the stalking law as a result of murder of actress Rebecca Schaeffer by Robert bardo in 1989.
- The stalking law was enforced in 1990
- New York enacted penal laws; it says that stalking is an offence.
- Australia adopted stalking statute in 1993.

**Position In U.S.A:**

U.S.A is mostly affected country by cyber stalking. U.S.A adopted various laws at the center and state level.

- The first Act is Interstate communication Act.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> 18 U.S.C s 875 (c)

- Another federal legislation is telephone harassment statute<sup>6</sup>
- Interstate Stalking Punishment and Prevention Act.<sup>7</sup>
- Michigan was the first state to include online communications in its stalking laws in 1993.
- And many other states were adopted the stalking statute.

### **Position in U.K:**

The UK does not have a specific legislation to deal with cyber-stalking. There are three legislations that seek to criminalize such behavior. The first of these legislations is the Telecommunications Act, 1984. Under this Act, it is an offence to send a message that is "grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character" or a message with the purpose of "causing annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety" and knows that the message is false, by means of a telecommunications system.<sup>8</sup>

The second legislation on the point is the Protection from Harassment Act, 1997, which makes the offence of criminal harassment and the offence involving fear of violence subject to civil and criminal measures.<sup>9</sup>

The third legislation on the point is the Malicious Communications Act, 1988. By the Criminal Justice and Police Act, 2001, this legislation was amended to include electronic communications as well.<sup>10</sup>

## **III. BANALITY OF CYBER EVIL**

Cyber stalking isn't fraud. A personality criminal, in the case of taking from an outsider or a relative, has a particular objective as a top priority — monetary profit. Personality cheats are unconcerned by the outcomes of their conduct on the casualty's life, while the activities of a cyber stalker ponder and centered around the results to the casualty.

Around 74% of ladies in India are digital stalked and around 21% men.

For what reason do individuals get into digital stalking?

Psychological research of Cyber Stalkers

Psychological research of Cyber Stalkers depends on the emotional wellness of stalker, which can be contemplated as under:

- a) The rejected stalker: had a personal association with the casualty (albeit once in a while the casualty might be a relative or dear companion) and perspectives the end of the relationship as inadmissible. Their conduct is described by a blend of retribution and want for compromise.

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<sup>6</sup> 47 U.S.C. S. 223

<sup>7</sup> 81 U.S.C. s. 2261 (A)

<sup>8</sup> Telecommunication Act ,1984, S.43

<sup>9</sup> Protection from Harassment act, 1997, SS2(2),4(4)

<sup>10</sup> Malicious communication Act, 1988, S.1; Criminal Justice and Police Act, 2001, S.43, (22) Indian Penal Code, 1860, S. 509

- b) Closeness searchers: They endeavor to convey to fulfillment of association with a man who has drawn in their coveted and who they may likewise erroneously see responds to that friendship.
- c) Inept suitors: They tend to try to create connections however they neglect to maintain social tenets administering romance. They are generally mentally constrained or socially awkward.
- d) Angry stalkers: They hassle their casualties with the particular goal of causing trepidation and fear out of a want for revenge for some real or gathered damage or embarrassment.
- e) Ruthless stalker: who stalk data gathering purposes or dream practice in planning for a sexual join.
- f) Whimsical stalker: Usually has a background marked by psychological maladjustment that may incorporate schizophrenia or hyper misery. The schizophrenia stalker may have quit taking his or her pharmaceutical and now lives in a dreamland made out of part reality and part fancy which s/he can't separate. In the event that they're not cautious, focuses of the fanciful stalker are probably going to be sucked in to this dreamland and begin to have questions about their own particular rational soundness, particularly if the stalker is shrewd, and discontinuously and flawlessly clear and typical.
- g) Erotomania stalker: is likewise fanciful and rationally sick and trusts he or she is enamored with you and will have made and whole relationship in their mind.
- h) Harasser stalker: generally some stalker composes jumps at the chance to be the focal point of consideration and may have a consideration looking for identity issue. They may not be stalker in the strict sense of the word. However, more than once irritate anybody (particularly any individual who is benevolent, defenseless or unpracticed), who may be induced to give careful consideration. On the off chance that they display side effects of Munchausen Syndrome they may choose a casualty who they stalk by manufacturing cases of badgering by this individual against themselves

- **Women are vulnerable victims of stalking and bullying through online social networks.**

There are two fundamental reasons why women are at a higher danger of on the web provocation. The most broadly known and most applicable, is the common male centric social structure. Be that as it may, second is the low proficiency rate amongst women in India, and specifically their low level of support in instruction and work in the STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Such a vacuum amongst ladies and ICTs underestimates women and limits their association with innovation. Thus, this can influence them to end up as defenseless prey to digital badgering.

#### **IV. LEGAL PROVISIONS ON CYBER STALKING**

The IT Act 2008. Hence the most used provision for regulating cyber stalking in India is section 72 of the Indian information technology act (Amended),2008, which runs as follows;

Section 72: Breach of confidentiality and privacy: Save as otherwise provided in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, any person who, in pursuance of any of the powers conferred under this Act, rules or regulations made there under, has secured access to any electronic record, book, register, correspondence, information, document or other material without the consent of the person concerned discloses such electronic record, book, register, correspondence, information, document or other material to any other person shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees, or with both.

And also section 72A of the Information Technology Act, 2000(amended in 2008), which runs as follows:

Section 72A:Punishment for Disclosure of information in breach of lawful contract (Inserted vide ITAA-2008): Save as otherwise provided in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, any person including an intermediary who, while providing services under the terms of lawful contract, has secured access to any material containing personal information about another person, with the intent to cause or knowing that he is likely to cause wrongful loss or wrongful gain discloses, without the consent of the person concerned, or in breach of a lawful contract, such material to any other person shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with a fine which may extend to five lakh rupees, or with both.<sup>11</sup>

In practice, these provisions can be read with section 441 of the Indian Penal Code, which deals with offences related to Criminal trespass and runs as follows: Whoever enters into or upon property in the possession of another with intent to commit an offence or to intimidate, insult or annoy any person in possession of such property, or having lawfully entered into or upon such property, unlawfully remains there with intent thereby to intimidate, insult or annoy any such person, or with an intent to commit an offence, is said to commit criminal trespass.

If the cyber stalking is done only to annoy the victim and does not result in serious offences like severe defamation, sexual crimes, identity theft or even grave crimes like terrorism, it is treated as a billable offence.

However, after the December, 2012 Delhi gang rape incidence, the Indian government had taken several initiatives to review the existing criminal laws. A special committee under Justice Verma was formed for this purpose and based upon the report of the committee, several new laws were introduced. In this course, anti-stalking law was also introduced. The Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 2013 added

S.354D to the Indian Penal Code to define and punish the act of stalking. This law is as follows:

S.354D of the IPC (as has been added by the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 2013)

1. Whoever follows a person or contacts or attempts to contact such person to foster personal interaction

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<sup>11</sup> Information Technology Act 2000

repeatedly despite a clear indication of disinterest by such person or whoever monitors the use by a person of the internet, email or any other form of electronic communication or watches or spies a person in a manner that results in fear of violence or serious alarm or distress, in the mind of such person or interferes with the mental peace of such person, commits the offence of stalking.

Provided that the course of conduct will not amount to stalking if the person who pursued it shows:

1. That it was pursued for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime and the person accused of stalking had been entrusted with the responsibility of prevention or detention of crime by the State, or
2. That it was pursued under any enactment or rule of law, or to comply with any condition or requirement imposed by any person under any enactment, or,
3. That in the particular circumstances, the pursuit of the course of conduct was reasonable.
4. Whoever commits the offence described in S.354D (1) shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term that shall not be less than one year but shall extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine.

**Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000** states that a person would be punished with imprisonment for up to 3 years with fine if he uses a computer resource or communication device to send-

Any information that is grossly offensive or has menacing character. Any information which is false to cause annoyance, inconvenience, danger, obstruction, insult, injury, criminal intimidation, enmity, hatred or ill will.

Any email or electronic mail message to cause annoyance or inconvenience, mislead the addressee or recipient about the origin of such messages.

The Information Technology Act, 2000 also comes into picture when the cyber stalker posts or sends any obscene content to the victim. Section 67 of the Information Technology Act states that when any obscene material is published, transmitted or caused to be published in any electronic form, and then it is a crime of obscenity, punishable with imprisonment for up to 5 years with fine of up to Rs. 1 lakh. A second or subsequent conviction is punishable by imprisonment for up to 10 years with a fine of up to Rest. 2 lakh.

Section 500 of the Indian Penal Code that deals with defamation, can be applied in case of cyber stalking in India if the stalker forges the victim's personal information to post an obscene message or comment on any electronic media. Section 500 criminalizes publishing any false statement against a person or harming the person's reputation and provides punishment for any such act with imprisonment up to 2 years, fine or both.

## V. JUDICIAL REVIEW

### *Manish Kathuria Case*

The first reported case of cyber-stalking in India and the reason for the 2008 amendment to the IT Act, the Manish Kathuria case involved the stalking of a woman named RituKohli. Kathuria followed Kohli on a chat website, abused her by using obscene language and then disseminated her telephone number to various people. Later, he began using Kohli's identity to chat on the website "www.mirc.com". As a result she started receiving almost forty obscene telephone calls at odd hours of the night over three consecutive days. This situation forced her to report the matter to the Delhi Police. As soon as the complaint was made, Delhi Police traced the IP addresses and arrested Kathuria under Section 509 of the Indian Penal Code. The IT Act was not invoked in the case, since it had not come into force at the time when the complaint was filed. While there is no record of any subsequent proceeding, this case made Indian legislators wake up to the need for a legislation to address cyber-stalking. Even then, it was only in 2008 that Section 66-A was introduced. As a result, now cases are being reported under this section as opposed to Section 509 of the Indian Penal Code, as was the case where a Delhi University student was arrested for stalking a woman from Goa by creating fake profiles on social networking websites, uploading pictures on them and declared her to be his wife. It is hoped that the decision in this would favor the victim.<sup>12</sup>

#### ***Karan Girotra V. State***

The only reported case till date to reach the judiciary on cyber-stalking is also merely an application to grant anticipatory bail. This case dealt with a woman, ShivaniSaxena, whose marriage could not be consummated; as a result she filed for divorce by mutual consent. In the midst, she came across Karan Girotra while chatting on the Internet, who told her he loved her and wanted to marry her. On the pretext of introducing her to his family, Girotra invited Saxena over to his house, drugged her and assaulted her sexually. He continued to assure her that he would marry her and began sending her obscene pictures from the night she was assaulted. He also threatened to circulate the pictures if she did not marry him. As a result, an engagement ceremony was performed between the two after which he continued to assault her and eventually called off her engagement to her. As a result, Saxena filed a complaint under Section 66-A of the IT Act.

Though the Court rejected the plea of anticipatory bail on the ground that Girotra circulated nude and obscene pictures of Saxena, an act, which requires serious custodial interrogation, nonetheless it made some scathing remarks. According to the Court Saxena had failed to disclose her previous marriage to Girotra merely because she agreed to perform the engagement ceremony, even though such mention was made when Girotra had first professed his love to Saxena. The Court also took noted that there was a delay in lodging the FIR by Saxena. What is more shocking is that the Court held that Saxena had consented to the sexual intercourse and had decided to file the complaint only when Girotra refused to marry her.

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<sup>12</sup> article on cyber crime by missouri law house

This case highlights the attitude of the Indian judiciary towards cases involving cyber-stalking. It is appalling that factors as redundant as a delay in filing the FIR have a huge bearing on the outcome of the case. It is for this reason that more stringent legislations are the need of the hour.<sup>13</sup>

### ***Vinupriya Case***

This is very recent case. In this case the victim was a 21 years old, who finished her B.Sc. chemistry. On June 23, when the first photograph appeared, she informed her parents who lodged a complaint with the Cyber Crime Cell. The police, either lacking the investigative skills to trace the origin of the morphed photograph or simply displaying lack of interest, told Vinupriya's father that it will nab the culprit in two weeks. Two weeks? Seriously? Do those cops in Tamil Nadu's Cyber Crime Cell understand the trauma Vinupriya and her family would have gone through? That is not all. One of the officers in the Cyber Crime Cell allegedly asked for a mobile phone if the father wanted the investigation to be done. Vinupriya's father says he bought a cell phone worth Rs 2,000 for the cop and bemoans that despite taking a bribe, the officer did not deliver justice. On June 26, another obscene photograph was posted on Facebook, leaving Vinupriya traumatized. The investigating officer had already assumed that she must have sent those pictures to someone and now they were being posted, perhaps by a jilted lover. The line of questioning to Vinupriya was on those lines. When she was alone at home on June 27, she killed herself<sup>14</sup>.

The second photograph that had appeared on June 26 disappeared within hours of news of Vinupriya's death becoming public. Proof, that the pervert was lurking somewhere close by or was part of Vinupriya's friend circle.

### ***President Pranab Mukharjee's daughter stalking case***

A man, who posted sexually explicit messages on her Facebook page, allegedly harassed Sharmistha Mukherjee, daughter of President Pranab Mukherjee.<sup>15</sup> She lodged a complaint with the Cyber Crime unit of Delhi Police. Police said the "lewd" messages were sent to the complainant through Facebook Messenger. The profile of the sender mentions him as a resident of Nauhati in Hooghly, West Bengal. Mukherjee shared screenshots of the messages sent to her and said she decided to speak up against online harassment as ignoring it would only encourage him further. She also tagged the man who has now deleted his profile from Facebook.

"This pervert Partha Mandal is sending me dirty sexual messages. My 1st reaction was to ignore and block him. But then I thought the silence would encourage him to find other victims. Just blocking and reporting is not

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<sup>13</sup>karanGirotra Vs state &Anr. On 8 may, 2012 977/2011

<sup>14</sup> the hindu newspaper Tamil edition

<sup>15</sup> Times of india news paper

enough. I strongly feel such people should be publicly exposed and humiliated. I'm posting screenshots of his profile and messages he sent me. I'm also tagging him. Please share this post and tag this rat as a message that these pervert acts will not be taken lightly," she wrote.

### *Cassidy stalking case*

Cassidy was a miss teen U.S.A, was stalked over a year. Jared James Abraham, who he was higher secondary friend of Cassidy, stalked her. He input a malware into the Cassidy's laptop through he collected lot of information about Cassidy and he upload a semi nude photo of Cassidy in the social media and then it was informed into the FBI and they found the culprit.<sup>16</sup>

### *Other Cases*

1. Amanda Todd was a bright and bubbly 13-year-old from Canada. During an Internet chat session, a stranger asked her to bare her breasts. In a fleeting moment, she complied. Amanda had no idea he'd recorded it. The stranger contacted her again, and threatened to release the file unless she posed nude for him. She refused, and the photograph was released to her peers. After being subjected to relentless bullying as a result, Amanda committed suicide.

2. A 12-year-old Washington girl was sentenced on Wednesday to probation and community service for a cyber stalking incident in which she and another 11-year-old girl doctored a classmate's Facebook account with explicit photos and solicitations for sex. But the mother of the victim, also 12, said she has "mixed feelings" about the sentencing of the girls who hacked her daughter's Facebook page, and she isn't satisfied with the judge's ruling.

The case dealt with the posting of sexually explicit material by Abraham Jacob Alkhabaz, a student of the University of Michigan under the pseudonym "Jake Baker". Baker posted stories on an Internet newsgroup titled "alt. sex. Stories" describing the torture, rape and murder of a woman who had the same name as one of Baker's classmates at the University of Michigan. In addition, e-mails were exchanged between Baker and a man named Arthur Gonda from Ontario, Canada, who was a reader of his story. Over forty e-mails were exchanged between the two men discussing their desire to abduct and physically injure women of their area. As a result, a complaint was filed against Baker under the Interstate Communications Act.<sup>17</sup>

3. A 35-year-old man will serve three months in jail for sending obscene pictures and videos via email to a woman he met on a social networking site — the state's first conviction in a cyber-stalking case.

On Friday, additional chief metropolitan magistrate MR Natu convicted Yogesh Prabhu under section 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) of the IPC and section 66 (E) (punishment for

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<sup>16</sup> united states vs Cassidy criminal case no. RWT 11-091

<sup>17</sup> united states vs jakes baker

violation of privacy) of the Information Technology Act, 2008.

“Prabhu has been sentenced to three months’ simple imprisonment and fined Rs10, 000 for the offence under the IT Act and Rs5, 000 for intending to insult the modesty of a woman,” said Dhananjay Kulkarni, deputy commissioner of police, crime branch. “The woman initially chatted with him, but she said she started finding his behavior suspicious and stopped responding to his messages,” said public prosecutor Kiran Bhendbhar. She even removed him from her friend’s list. According to the police sources, their relationship could have turned sour after the woman turned down Prabhu’s proposal to get married. As the woman is a year older than Prabhu, her parents were opposed to the marriage. The woman then stopped communicating with him.

Prabhu, however, continued to keep an eye on her profile and her whereabouts.

The following month, between March 3 and March 9, 2009, the woman got mails from an unknown ID. The mails contained obscene images and videos. She initially ignored them, but when they did not stop, wrote a complaint to the then crime branch chief Rakesh Maria. A case was registered at the Shivaji Park police station on April 9 and the Cyber Crime Investigation Cell (CCIC) took over the probe.

The Internet Protocol (IP) address of the computer was traced to the Vashi firm. A team headed by inspector Mukund Pawar, arrested Prabhu in April 2009. CCIC sub inspector Sachin Puranik said the cyber cell filed a 200-page charge sheet in September 2009, after which the trial began.

Public prosecutor Bhendbhar examined eight witnesses, including the woman, Prabhu’s colleagues, and cyber experts and police officials. When the court convicted Prabhu, it said the prosecution had proved the case beyond reasonable doubt.

“This is the first conviction in a cyber-stalking case in Maharashtra. Convictions in cyber frauds cases have happened earlier, but this is the first in which an accused has been convicted in a cybercrime where a woman was targeted, stalked and harassed with obscene material on the Internet,” said Nandkishore More, assistant commissioner of police, cyber division

**4.** A day when Hyderabad was shocked with the incident of a jilted lover and stalker setting ablaze and killing a 25-year-old woman, the Hyderabad Police has arrested a person for cyber-stalking a girl.

The accused identified as 34-year-old Eerapuram Naresh Kumar alias Ravi alias Aravind Boyapati, a native of Mahaboob Nagar district of Telangana, was arrested for creating fake Facebook account and sending abusive messages and threatening the victim on the pretext of marriage.

The accused cyber-stalker was harassing the victim for the past two months by creating a fake Facebook account in her name.

"After victim deleted her Facebook id, the accused started calling her on her mobile phone and asked for

marriage. When the girl refused, he started issuing threats to her. He was threatening girl that if she will not marry with him, he will kill her family members.” said a police officer of cybercrime department.

Frustrated with the calls and continues threat by the accused, the girl approached the Police and after a thorough investigation, a special team nabbed the accused from Guntur of Andhra Pradesh and produced him before the court for judicial remand

## VI. CONCLUSION & SUGGESTIONS

I firmly believe that in total dimness we as a whole are on a similar balance and it is just our insight and shrewdness that leads us towards light. Web clients must be proactive towards their security and must remember that nobody has the right to badger another individual for any reason. To keep digital stalking in check, rather than remain a quiet casualty, the police must be informed at the earliest. Because of the danger or dread of getting defamed publicly, large portions of the casualties attempt to proceed onward in their lives, thinking of it as an awful dream.

Albert Einstein has aptly stated it: "Life resembles riding a bike. To keep your balance, you should continue moving." However, the issue of digital stalking, being extremely delicate, must be tended to instantly as it leaves a profound scar on the casualty's mind if left unaddressed.