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Navigating the Dark Side of Digital Interaction: A Deep Dive into Cyber Teasing

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ABSTRACT

This article offers an in-depth analysis of cyber teasing as a modern digital threat, tracing its evolution from traditional public harassment to complex forms of online abuse. Cyber teasing is defined as a persistent pattern of behavior that involves insults, humiliation, and harassment through digital platforms such as social media, messaging apps, emails, and websites. This article explores the various tactics employed-from flaming and impersonation to exclusion and denigration-and examines the motives behind these acts, including the desire for sexual attention, revenge, and the intent to shame or humiliate. Special attention is given to the heightened vulnerability of women and teenagers, who are often the primary targets. The psychological, emotional, and social consequences for victims are discussed, including anxiety, depression, social isolation, and damage to reputation. This article also reviews the robust legal framework in India that addresses cyber teasing, referencing key provisions under the Information Technology Act, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and other relevant statutes such as the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act and the Young Persons (Harmful Publications) Act. These laws provide stringent penalties for offenses related to obscenity, sexual harassment, privacy violations, and defamation. Ultimately, the article underscores the importance of awareness, proactive self-protection, community support, and legal recourse in combating cyber teasing and fostering a safer online environment.

Keyword: Cyber teasing, online harassment, digital abuse, women safety, teenagers, harmful publications

I. INTRODUCTION

In the digital age, cyber teasing has emerged as a pervasive and multifaceted form of online abuse, evolving far beyond the traditional public harassment once limited to physical spaces. The rapid expansion of digital communication platforms has transformed the nature of teasing and harassment, introducing new complexities and challenges for individuals and society. This article explores the phenomenon of cyber teasing, delving into its historical evolution, methods, motives, legal frameworks, and the profound impact it has on victims, particularly

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women and teenagers.

II. HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF TEASING TO CYBER TEASING

Teasing and harassment have long been embedded in social interactions, historically taking place in schools, workplaces, streets, and other public venues. Traditionally, such behaviors included verbal taunts, mocking gestures, public humiliation, or unwanted advances-often limited by the immediate environment and the presence of witnesses. However, with the advent of the internet, mobile phones, and social media, these acts have shifted dramatically into the digital realm. The transition to cyberspace has fundamentally changed the scale, reach, and permanence of teasing. Unlike traditional forms, cyber teasing can occur at any time and from anywhere, with perpetrators often hiding behind the anonymity of digital profiles. Harmful messages, images, or videos can be instantly shared with a global audience, making the impact more widespread and the humiliation more enduring, as digital footprints are difficult to erase. The tactics have also evolved, now including online flaming, impersonation, exclusion from digital groups, outing, trickery, and the viral spread of rumours or defamatory content. As a result, cyber teasing has become more invasive and psychologically damaging, often leaving victims feeling isolated and powerless. This evolution underscores the urgent need for digital literacy, robust legal protections, and proactive community support to combat the unique challenges posed by cyber teasing in the modern age.

What is Cyber Teasing?

In a simple and understandable way cyber teasing is more than just a fleeting insult; it is an attitude, a mindset, and a recurring pattern of behavior or actions that result in the insult or humiliation of a target. While traditional teasing or harassment often occurs in public spaces, such as streets or public transport, cyber teasing employs digital means, making it a form of cyber harassment with potentially wider reach and longer-lasting effects.

Cyber Teasing Vs Cyberbullying:

Aspect	Cyber Teasing	Cyberbullying
General Definition	Involves making fun, mocking, or taunting someone online, often in a "playful" or sarcastic manner, but	Involves intentional, repeated, and aggressive online behavior aimed at harming, intimidating, or

Aspect	Cyber Teasing	Cyberbullying
	can cross into hurtful territory.	humiliating a specific individual.
Intent	May be intended as a joke or for attention, but can cause embarrassment, shame, or distress to the target.	Deliberate intent to cause emotional, psychological, or reputational harm to the victim.
Nature	Can be one-off or sporadic; may or may not be malicious.	Systematic, repetitive, and targeted harassment or abuse.
Tactics Used	Teasing comments, sarcasm, sharing embarrassing content, exclusion from groups.	Threats, abuse, spreading rumours, doxxing, impersonation, relentless harassment.
Severity	Can range from mild annoyance to severe humiliation, but not always persistent.	Usually severe, persistent, and can have long-term psychological effects.
Target	Often targets teenagers, women, or anyone perceived as vulnerable.	Can target anyone, but especially prevalent among children, teens, and marginalized groups.
Examples	Posting a meme to mock someone, making fun of someone's appearance in a group chat.	Repeatedly sending threatening messages, spreading false rumours, creating hate pages.
Legal Implications	May be covered under laws relating to online harassment, obscenity, or defamation.	Covered under anti-bullying, cybercrime, and harassment laws; often taken more seriously by authorities.

Aspect	Cyber Teasing	Cyberbullying
Impact	Can cause embarrassment, social exclusion, or distress; may escalate into bullying.	Causes significant emotional, psychological, and sometimes physical harm; can lead to depression, anxiety, or suicide.
Similarity	Both involve use of digital platforms to harm or embarrass others; both can have serious consequences if not addressed.	Both involve use of digital platforms to harm or embarrass others; both can have serious consequences if not addressed.

Modus Operandi: How Cyber Teasing is Carried Out

Cyber teasing leverages various digital platforms and communication tools to target individuals. The most common methods include:

- **Social Media Platforms:** Offenders use Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, and similar platforms to post, share, or send vulgar, defamatory, embarrassing, harmful, or false messages about their targets.
- **SMS and MMS:** Text and multimedia messages sent from cellular networks can be used to harass, threaten, or spread rumours.
- **Instant Messaging Services:** Apps like WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, and other instant messaging tools are exploited to send repeated, unwanted, or abusive messages.
- **Email:** Harassers may use email to send harmful content, threats, or to impersonate the victim.
- **Websites and Web-based SMS:** Offenders might create defamatory websites or use web-based messaging services to reach their targets.
- **Other Digital Means:** Any platform that allows for digital communication can become a tool for cyber teasing.

Common Tactics Include:

- Flaming (online fights with vulgar language)

- Harassment (repeated offensive messages)
- Denigration (spreading cruel gossip or rumours)
- Impersonation (posing as the victim to damage their reputation)
- Outing and Trickery (sharing secrets or tricking someone into revealing private information)
- Exclusion (intentionally leaving someone out of online groups)

Motives Behind Cyber Teasing

The motivations for committing acts of cyber teasing are varied, but often include:

- **Gaining Sexual Attention:** Many perpetrators seek to provoke or manipulate their targets for sexual gratification or attention, often through unwanted sexual comments or advances.
- **Exacerbating Shame and Humiliation:** Some offenders aim to publicly embarrass or shame their targets, intensifying feelings of humiliation and distress.
- **Revenge:** Cyber teasing can be an act of retaliation, particularly in cases involving ex-partners or former friends, where the perpetrator seeks to harm the target's reputation or emotional well-being.

Who Are the Targets?

Cyber teasing disproportionately affects certain groups:

- **Women:** Women are frequent targets, especially of gender-based cyber violence, including sexual comments, body shaming, threats, and harassment. This is often driven by misogynistic attitudes and the desire to assert dominance or control.
- **Teenagers:** Adolescents are especially vulnerable due to their high engagement with digital platforms and the social pressures of youth culture. Both girls and boys can be victims, but girls are often targeted with sexualized or gendered abuse.

The Impact of Cyber Teasing

The consequences of cyber teasing are profound and far-reaching:

- **Emotional and Psychological Harm:** Victims often experience stress, anxiety, trauma, depression, anger, and loneliness as a result of persistent online harassment.

- **Social and Relational Damage:** Reputations can be irreparably damaged, friendships and relationships strained or destroyed, and victims may feel isolated or excluded from their communities.
- **Escalation to Physical Violence:** In some cases, online teasing can escalate into face-to-face aggression or physical violence, especially when the perpetrator is known to the victim.

III. LEGAL PROVISIONS RELATED TO CYBER TEASING IN INDIA

Cyber teasing, which includes online harassment, humiliation, and the sharing of obscene or sexually explicit content, is addressed through several legal provisions in India. These laws span the Information Technology Act, the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and other special statutes. Below is a detailed elaboration of the relevant sections and their application to cyber teasing.

Information Technology Act, 2000

Section 67: Punishment for Publishing or Transmitting Obscene Material in Electronic Form

This section criminalizes the publication, transmission, or causing to be published or transmitted any material in electronic form that is lascivious, appeals to prurient interest, or tends to deprave and corrupt those likely to read, see, or hear it.

- **Punishment:** For the first conviction, imprisonment up to three years and a fine up to Rs. 5 lakhs; for subsequent convictions, imprisonment up to five years and a fine up to Rs. 10 lakhs.

The section covers a wide range of digital content, including text, images, and videos, and applies to any form of electronic dissemination that meets the criteria of obscenity.

Section 67A: Punishment for Publishing or Transmitting Material Containing Sexually Explicit Act

Targets the publication or transmission of content in electronic form that contains sexually explicit acts or conduct (not limited to obscenity but explicit sexual content).

- **Punishment:** For the first conviction, imprisonment up to five years and a fine up to Rs. 10 lakhs; for subsequent convictions, imprisonment up to seven years and a fine up to Rs. 10 lakhs.

The section does not clearly distinguish between consensual and non-consensual sharing, which has led to concerns about its misuse.

Section 67B: Punishment for Publishing or Transmitting Material Depicting Children in Sexually Explicit Act

Specifically addresses child pornography and the online exploitation of minors. Criminalizes publishing, transmitting, or causing to be published or transmitted any material depicting children in sexually explicit acts, as well as related activities like browsing, downloading, or promoting such content.

- **Punishment:** Similar to Section 67A such as for the first conviction, imprisonment up to five years and a fine up to Rs. 10 lakhs; for subsequent convictions, imprisonment up to seven years and a fine up to Rs. 10 lakhs.

Section 66E: Punishment for Violation of Privacy

Deals with capturing, publishing, or transmitting images of a person's private area without consent, under circumstances violating their privacy.

- **Punishment:** Imprisonment up to three years, or fine up to Rs. 2 lakh, or both³.

This provision is crucial for protecting individuals from non-consensual sharing of intimate images or videos³.

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023

Section 296: Obscene acts and song (Section 294 of IPC)

This section addresses any book, pamphlet, paper, writing, drawing, painting, figure, representation, or any other object including digital or electronic content is considered obscene if it is sexually explicit, appeals to sexual desire, or if, taken as a whole, it has the potential to corrupt or morally degrade individuals who are likely to read, view, or hear it, based on the context and circumstances.

- **punishment** : shall be punished on first conviction with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, and with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees, and, in the event of a second or subsequent conviction, with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, and also with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees.

Section 75: Sexual harassment (Section 354 (a) of IPC)

A man is considered to have committed **sexual harassment** if he engages in any of the following acts:

- (i) Unwelcome physical contact and explicit sexual advances.

- (ii) Demanding or requesting sexual favours.
- (iii) Showing pornography to a woman against her will.
- (iv) Making sexually coloured (sexually suggestive or inappropriate) remarks.

Punishment:

- For offences mentioned in clauses (i), (ii), or (iii) above: The man shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for up to three years, or with fine, or both.
- For the offence mentioned in clause (iv) (sexually coloured remarks): The punishment is imprisonment (simple or rigorous) for up to one year, or fine, or both

Section 351: Criminal intimidation (Section 506 & 507 of IPC)

Criminal intimidation happens when someone threatens another person—through any means—with harm to their body, reputation, or property, or to someone they care about. The threat must be made with the intention of creating fear or forcing the person to do something they are not legally required to do, or to stop them from doing something they are legally allowed to do. Even threatening the reputation of a deceased person, if it affects someone close to them, is considered criminal intimidation. For example, if someone threatens to burn another person's house to stop them from filing a case, that is criminal intimidation.

Punishment:

- For general threats, the punishment can be imprisonment for up to 2 years, or a fine, or both.
- If the threat involves death, serious injury, burning property, serious crimes, or accusing a woman of being unchaste, the punishment can be imprisonment for up to 7 years, or a fine, or both.
- If the threat is made anonymously or with efforts to hide the sender's identity, an additional punishment of up to 2 years can be added to the main punishment.

Section 79: Word, gesture or act intended to insult modesty of a woman (Section 509 of IPC)

Any man who, with the intention of insulting a woman's modesty, uses words, makes sounds or gestures, or displays any object in a way that is meant to be seen or heard by the woman, or who intrudes on her privacy, is considered to have committed an offence. This includes any act done to harass, embarrass, or disrespect a woman in public or private.

Punishment:

The person committing this offence can be punished with simple imprisonment for up to 3 years, and may also be fined.

Section 356: Defamation (Section 499 & 500 of IPC)

This Section deals with defamation, including defamatory statements or content sent electronically via emails, social media posts, or other digital platforms.

Punishment:

The punishment for defamation can extend to two years of imprisonment, or with fine, or both

Section 111: Organized crime

Organised crime includes any ongoing illegal activity such as kidnapping, robbery, vehicle theft, extortion, land grabbing, contract killing, economic offences, cyber-crimes, drug and human trafficking, weapons smuggling, or dealing in illicit goods or services. These crimes are committed by individuals or groups, either alone or together, on behalf of or as members of an organised crime syndicate. If these acts are carried out using violence, threats, intimidation, coercion, or any other unlawful method to gain a direct or indirect material or financial benefit, they are considered organised crime

Punishments:

- **Abetting, attempting, conspiring, or preparing to commit organised crime:** Imprisonment of at least 5 years, which may extend to life imprisonment, and a fine of not less than Rs. 5,00,000.
- **Being a member of an organised crime syndicate:** Imprisonment of at least 5 years, extendable to life imprisonment, and a fine of not less than Rs. 5,00,000.
- **Harbouring or hiding a person involved in organised crime:** Imprisonment of at least 3 years, which may go up to life imprisonment, and a fine of not less than Rs. 5,00,000.
- **Possessing property gained from organised crime:** Imprisonment of at least 3 years, extendable to life imprisonment, and a fine of not less than Rs. 2,00,000.
- **Possessing property on behalf of a syndicate member, without being able to explain its source:** Imprisonment of at least 3 years, extendable up to 10 years, and a fine of not less than Rs. 1,00,000.

These sections of the BNS, alongside the Information Technology Act, 2000, create a robust

legal framework for addressing a wide range of teasing, cyber teasing, and related online offences, ensuring that victims have clear avenues for legal recourse and offenders face appropriate penalties.

Other Relevant Acts

Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 – Section 4 read with Section 6

Prohibits the indecent representation of women through advertisements, publications, writings, paintings, figures, or in any other manner, including electronic forms.

Punishments:

on first conviction with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, and with fine which may extend two thousand rupees, and in the event of a second or subsequent conviction with imprisonment for a term of not less than six months but which may extend to five years and also with a fine not less than ten thousand rupees but which may extend to one lakh rupees.

The Young Persons (Harmful Publications) Act, 1956 – Section 3 read with Section 6

A person commits an offence if they sell, rent out, distribute, publicly display, or circulate any harmful publication; print, produce, or possess such publications with the intent to sell, rent, distribute, or exhibit them; or advertise or promote, by any means, the availability of a harmful publication. Here, a harmful publication refers to any content that is damaging, inappropriate, or potentially harmful to the public, particularly to children or vulnerable groups.

Punishments:

The punishment for these offences is imprisonment of up to six months, or a fine, or both. Upon conviction, the court may order the destruction of all copies of the harmful publication involved in the offence that are in court custody or in the possession of the convicted person. Additionally, a police officer or authorized officer has the power to seize harmful publications without a warrant, while a First-Class Magistrate may issue a warrant to search and seize suspected harmful publications, with the seized items required to be brought before the magistrate or issuing court. If the court or magistrate determines that the publication is harmful, it may be destroyed; if not, the publication will be dealt with in accordance with the procedure laid out in sections 523, 524, and 525 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

Protecting Yourself and Others

Awareness and proactive measures are key to combating cyber teasing:

- **Strengthen Privacy Settings:** Limit who can see your posts and personal information online.
- **Document Incidents:** Keep records of abusive messages, including screenshots and timestamps.
- **Report and Block Offenders:** Use platform tools to report harassment and block perpetrators.
- **Seek Support:** Reach out to friends, family, or professionals for emotional support and guidance.
- **Legal Action:** In severe cases, consider reporting to law enforcement and understanding your legal rights.

Role of Schools, Colleges, and Workplaces

Schools, colleges, and workplaces play a critical role in combating cyber teasing by fostering safe, respectful digital environments. Educational institutions must integrate cyber safety and digital ethics into curricula, conducting workshops to teach students about responsible online behavior, privacy protection, and the consequences of cyber harassment. They should enforce strict anti-harassment policies, provide counselling services for victims, and establish anonymous reporting mechanisms to address incidents promptly. Similarly, workplaces must implement clear guidelines against cyber teasing in their codes of conduct, offer training sessions on workplace cyber ethics, and ensure robust HR protocols to investigate and resolve complaints. By promoting awareness, accountability, and support systems, these institutions can mitigate cyber teasing, protect vulnerable individuals, and collaborate with legal authorities to uphold a culture of respect both online and offline.

IV. REPORTING MECHANISMS AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS

When faced with cyber teasing, prompt reporting and seeking support are crucial steps for both stopping the abuse and ensuring your safety. Here's a step-by-step guide on how victims can report incidents across various platforms and access support systems:

1. Document the Evidence

- **Take screenshots** of the offending messages, posts, emails, or images.
- **Save chat logs** and URLs of abusive content.

- **Record the date, time, and platform** where the incident occurred.
- This documentation is vital for reporting to authorities or platforms and for any legal proceedings.

2. Report on Social Media and Messaging Platforms

- **Facebook/Instagram:** Go to the offending post or message, click on the three dots (options), and select “Report.” Follow the prompts to specify the nature of the abuse.
- **Twitter (X):** Click on the down arrow or three dots on the tweet, select “Report Tweet,” and follow the instructions.
- **WhatsApp:** Open the chat, tap on the contact’s name, scroll down, and select “Report Contact.” You can also block the user.
- **Snapchat:** Press and hold on the Snap or chat, tap “Report,” and follow the steps.
- **Other Platforms:** Most social media and messaging apps have a “Report” or “Block” feature in the settings or options menu. Use these to alert the platform and prevent further contact.

3. Report to Email Providers

- If harassment occurs via email, use the “Report Spam” or “Report Abuse” feature provided by email services like Gmail, Outlook, or Yahoo.
- Mark the sender as spam and block their email address to prevent further messages.

4. Contact Website Administrators

- If the abuse occurs on a website or forum, look for a “Contact Us,” “Report Abuse,” or “Help” section.
- Provide details and evidence of the cyber teasing to the site administrators for prompt action.

5. File a Complaint with Law Enforcement

- **National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (India):** Visit <https://cybercrime.gov.in/> to file an online complaint. This portal is specifically for reporting cybercrimes, including cyber teasing, harassment, and bullying.
- **Local Police Station:** Victims can file a First Information Report (FIR) at their nearest police station, especially if the abuse involves threats, sexual harassment, or defamation. Carry all documented evidence.

- **Cyber Crime Cells:** Most major cities have dedicated cybercrime cells. Visit in person or contact them via their official websites.

6. Seek Support from Helplines and NGOs

- **National Women's Helpline (181):** For women facing online harassment.
- **Childline (1098):** For children and teenagers.
- **Cyber Crime Helpline (155260):** For immediate assistance.
- **NGOs:** Organizations like Cyber Peace Foundation, Save the Children, and others provide counselling, legal advice, and support for victims.

7. Inform School, College, or Workplace Authorities

- If the incident involves classmates, colleagues, or occurs on institutional platforms, report it to the designated authorities such as the school principal, college anti-ragging committee, or workplace HR department.
- Most institutions have policies and committees to address online harassment and can take disciplinary action.

8. Access Counselling and Emotional Support

- Reach out to school or college counsellors, workplace Employee Assistance Programs (EAP), or mental health professionals.
- Online counselling services and helplines are also available for confidential support.

V. CHALLENGES IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTION

Law enforcement agencies face significant hurdles in effectively addressing and prosecuting cases of cyber teasing. One of the primary challenges is the difficulty in identifying perpetrators, as offenders often exploit the anonymity provided by digital platforms, use fake profiles, or operate from different jurisdictions. Collecting admissible digital evidence is another obstacle, since online content can be quickly deleted, altered, or hosted on servers outside the country, complicating the investigation process. Additionally, many victims hesitate to report incidents due to fear of social stigma, lack of awareness about legal remedies, or concerns about the lengthy and complex legal process. Even when cases are brought to court, achieving convictions can be challenging due to inadequate cyber forensics infrastructure, insufficient training of law enforcement personnel, and the evolving nature of cyber laws. These factors collectively hinder timely justice and embolden offenders, underscoring the need for more robust investigative tools, capacity building, and legal

reforms.

Landmark Case:

Case No: CC No. 4680 of 2004

Jurisdiction: Metropolitan Magistrate, Egmore, Tamil Nadu

Case Decided on: November 5, 2004

Judges: Anulrj (CCM), Egmore

This is the first known case in India to set a benchmark on cyber harassment. The case was filed by the woman on the grounds of being harassed and getting obscene message on various groups with the intention of offending her, which was sent by the man who was very keen in marrying her but she rejected him for which that person then started sending this kinds of obscene messages. Th case involved questions of cyber harassment of woman.

Judgment in brief:

1. Despite of all such arguments, the proofs were presented before the court. The IP address belonging to the harasser was same as the accused. The cyber case owner, an eye-witness, gave statement against the accused, after relying on the expert witness and other evidences produced before court, the additional chief metropolitan magistrate held the accused guilty of offences under IPC Sec 469, 509 and also sec 67 of Information act, 2000
2. The accused is convicted and is sentenced for the said offence. He has undergone 1 year of S.I.(simple imprisonment) and pay a fine of Rs, 500 under the charges of Sec 509 of IPC. He also has to undergo 2 years of R.I. (Rigorous Imprisonment) under section 469 of IPC. For the offence under sec 67 of the information technology act, 2000, he has to undergo 2 years of R.I. (Rigorous Imprisonment) and to pay Rs. 4000. All the sentences will run concurrently

VI. INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE: HOW OTHER COUNTRIES HANDLE CYBER TEASING

Globally, countries have adopted diverse approaches to tackle cyber teasing, often integrating it within broader frameworks of cyberbullying and online harassment. In the United States, for example, many states have enacted specific anti-cyberbullying laws and schools are mandated to have policies for prevention and intervention. The United Kingdom's Malicious Communications Act and the Communications Act criminalize sending offensive, indecent, or

threatening messages online, with strong enforcement mechanisms. Australia has established the eSafety Commissioner, a dedicated authority to handle online abuse complaints and facilitate content removal. In contrast, India's approach combines provisions from the Information Technology Act and criminal laws, but faces enforcement challenges. Best practices from other countries highlight the importance of specialized agencies, rapid response systems, digital literacy programs, and victim support services. Adopting such measures can strengthen India's response and ensure more effective protection for victims of cyber teasing.

VII. FUTURE TRENDS AND EMERGING THREATS

The landscape of cyber teasing is rapidly evolving with advancements in technology, presenting new and complex threats. The rise of artificial intelligence (AI) enables the creation of sophisticated deepfakes and manipulated content, which can be used for targeted humiliation or blackmail. The proliferation of the metaverse and immersive virtual environments introduces fresh avenues for harassment, where teasing can occur through avatars and virtual interactions, often beyond the reach of current legal frameworks. Additionally, encrypted messaging apps and ephemeral content make it harder to trace and preserve evidence of abuse. As technology continues to advance, perpetrators are likely to exploit new tools and platforms, making cyber teasing more pervasive and harder to combat. Addressing these emerging threats will require continuous updates to laws, investment in advanced cyber forensics, and international cooperation to ensure a safer digital future for all.

VIII. CONCLUSION

India's legal framework provides a comprehensive set of provisions to combat cyber teasing, particularly in cases involving obscenity, sexual harassment, privacy violations, or targeted abuse of women, children, and marginalized groups. The Information Technology Act specifically addresses digital offences, while the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and other special laws offer additional protections and penalties, ensuring victims have multiple avenues for legal recourse. However, cyber teasing remains a serious digital-age threat with severe emotional, psychological, and social repercussions. To more effectively control cyber teasing, it is essential to strengthen and clarify legislation by explicitly defining all forms of cyber teasing and imposing stricter, consistent penalties to deter offenders. Improvements should include streamlined, victim-centric reporting mechanisms with privacy safeguards, the establishment of fast-track courts for timely justice, and mandatory digital literacy campaigns to raise awareness. Additionally, enhanced training for law enforcement in cyber forensics, better coordination between authorities and digital platforms, and comprehensive victim

support services are crucial. By fostering a culture of respect and accountability online, empowering victims to report abuse without fear, and continuously updating legal frameworks to keep pace with evolving technologies, India can create a safer and more respectful digital environment. Empowerment through education, vigilance, community engagement, and ongoing legal reform is vital in the sustained fight against cyber teasing and online harassment.
