

Law to Combat Crime

E-Content

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I. Introduction

Hi Friends!

I am Mr.Jagdish Khobragade, Faculty at School of law, Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya Sagar, Madhya Pradesh.

Today we are going to learn about the law to combat crimes. But before we are going to discuss about various laws relating to combating crime, we should know, what is law? What are laws available to combat crime in India? Why law is required for controlling crime in society? How to stop crime with the help of law in society?

Basically, Indian Criminal Laws are divided into three major Acts i.e. Indian Penal Code, 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and Indian Evidence Act, 1872. Besides these major Acts, special Criminal Laws are also passed by Indian Parliament i.e. NDPS, Prevention of Corruption Act, Food Adulteration Act, Dowry Prevention Act, the Defence of India Act, etc., . And there are thousands of minor laws made in India.

Indian Penal Code formulated by the British during the British Raj in 1860, forms the backbone of criminal law in India. Jury trials were abolished by the government in 1960 on the grounds they would be susceptible to media and public influence.

This decision was based on an 8-1 acquittal of Kawa Manekshaw Nanavati in *K. M. Nanavati vs. State of Maharashtra*, 1962 AIR 605 1962 SCR SUPL. (1) 567, which was reversed by higher courts.

The fact of the case is that a Commander Kawa Manekshaw Nanavati, a Naval Commander, was tried for the murder of Prem Ahuja, his wife's lover. The incident

received unprecedented media coverage and inspired several books and films such as the 1973 film *Achanak* and 2016 film *Rustom*. Commander Nanavati, accused under section 302, was initially declared not guilty by a jury, but the verdict was dismissed by the Bombay High Court and the case was re-tried as a bench trial. This was among the last cases to be heard as a jury trial in India, as the government abolished jury trials soon after. Nanavati was finally pardoned by Vijayalakshmi Pandit, the then newly appointed Governor of Bombay.

The body of law relating to crime is criminal law. Criminal law enforces and regulates social conduct, in addition to prohibiting threats, harm or other element that endangers the health, safety and moral welfare of people within a jurisdiction. Criminal law also enforces punishment of offenders who violate laws.

What is law?

In general terms law means the system of rules which a particular country or community recognizes as regulating the actions of its members and which it may enforce by the imposition of penalties.

Definition of Crime:

Many jurists have defined crime in their own ways some of which are as under: · Blackstone defined crime as an act committed or omitted in violation of a public law either forbidding or commanding it. Stephen observed a crime is a violation of a right considered in reference to the evil tendency of such violation as regards the community at large. Oxford Dictionary defines crime as an act punishable by law as forbidden by statute or injurious to the public welfare.

II. Objective of criminal law

In criminal law, specific objectives exist to enforce different degrees of crime. Criminal law, in fact, provides punishment for offenders who fail to abide by the laws of their jurisdiction.

Modern consequences in criminal law commonly involve confinement in jail or prison, government supervision or house arrest, fines, seizure of property and/or money from an offender. Physical punishment is prohibited in most jurisdictions around the world.

Criminal Justice refers to the agencies of government charged with enforcing law, adjudicating crime, and correcting criminal conduct. The criminal justice system is

essentially an instrument of social control: society considers some behaviours so dangerous and destructive that it either strictly controls their occurrence or outlaws them outright.

Jurisdictions around the world follow five objectives to enforce criminal law punishment: retribution, rehabilitation, restoration, incapacitation and lastly deterrence. The value of each varies between different jurisdictions. The objective of criminal law is to combat crime in the following way.

- To prevent the occurrence of crime.
- To punish the transgressors and the criminals.
- To rehabilitate the transgressors and the criminals.
- To compensate the victims as far as possible.
- To maintain law and order in the society.
- To deter the offenders from committing any criminal act in the future.

III. Essential Elements of Crime:

There are four elements which to constitute a crime, these are: there must be human being, Mens rea or guilty intention, Actus reus or illegal act or omission and Injury.

There must be human being; the first element requires that the wrongful act must be committed by a human being. In ancient times, when criminal law was largely dominated by the idea of retribution, punishments were inflicted on animals also for the injury caused by them, for example, a pig was burnt in Paris for having devoured a child, a horse was killed for having kicked a man. But now, if an animal causes an injury we hold not the animal liable but its owner liable for such injury. So the first element of crime is a human being who must be under the legal obligation to act in a particular manner and should be a fit subject for awarding appropriate punishment. Section 11 of the Indian Penal Code provides that word 'person' includes a company or association or body of persons whether incorporated or not. The word 'person' includes artificial or juridical persons.

Mens Rea; The second important essential element of a crime is mens rea or evil intent or guilty mind. There can be no crime of any nature without mens rea or an evil mind. Every crime requires a mental element and that is considered as the fundamental principle of criminal liability. The basic requirement of the principle mens rea is that the accused must have been aware of those elements in his act which make the crime with which he is charged. There is a well known maxim in this regard, i.e. "actus non facit reum nisi mens sit rea" which means that, the guilty intention and guilty act together

constitute a crime. It comes from the maxim that no person can be punished in a proceeding of criminal nature unless it can be showed that he had a guilty mind.

Actus Reus (Guilty Act Or Omission); The third essential element of a crime is actus reus. In other words, some overt act or illegal omission must take place in pursuance of the guilty intention. Actus reus is the manifestation of mens rea in the external world. Prof. Kenny was the first writer to use the term 'actus reus'. He has defined the term thus "such result of human conduct as the law seeks to prevent".

Injury; The fourth requirement of a crime is injury to another person or to the society at large. The injury should be illegally caused to any person in body, mind, reputation or property as according to Section 44 of IPC, 1860 the injury denotes any harm whatever illegally caused to any person in body, mind, reputation or property

IV. Law to Combat Crime in India

Crimes are generally referred to as offenses against the state. The standard of proof for crimes is "beyond a reasonable doubt." Criminal law in India means offenses against the state, it includes felonies and misdemeanors. The standard of proof for crimes is "beyond a reasonable doubt." Criminal law is governed by Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and The Indian Evidence Act etc.

A body of rules and statutes that defines conduct prohibited by the government because it threatens and harms public safety and welfare and that establishes punishment to be imposed for the commission of such acts.

The term criminal law means crimes that may establish punishments. In contrast, Criminal Procedure describes the process through which the criminal laws are enforced. For example, the law prohibiting murder is a substantive criminal law. The manner in which government enforces this substantive law through the gathering of evidence and prosecution is generally considered a procedural matter. Crimes are usually categorized as felonies or misdemeanors based on their nature and the maximum punishment that can be imposed. A felony involves serious misconduct that is punishable by death or by imprisonment for more than one year. Most state criminal laws subdivide felonies into different classes with varying degrees of punishment. Crimes that do not amount to felonies are misdemeanors or violations. A misdemeanor is misconduct for which the law prescribes punishment of no more than one year in prison. Lesser offenses, such as traffic and parking infractions, are often called violations and are considered a part of criminal law.

First Information Report (FIR): The first information report means information recorded by a police officer on duty given either by the aggrieved person or any other person to the commission of an alleged offence. Who can File an FIR? Where to File an FIR? Why FIR should be filed promptly? Is there time duration fixed for Filing an FIR? The Supreme Court has given Directions to be followed in regards to Registration of an FIR, these directions are discussed Rights of Arrested Person: One of the basic tenets of our legal system is the benefit of the presumption of innocence of the accused till he is found guilty at the end of a trial on legal evidence.

Circumstantial evidence is used in criminal courts to decide the fate of accused by establishing guilt or innocence through reasoning. According to Bentham witnesses are the "eyes and ears of justice". But testimony of witnesses is not always credible; therefore, facts are provable not only by witnesses but also by circumstances. In words of Stephen Leacock My evidence for this assertion is all indirect, it's what we call circumstantial evidence the same the people are hang for it.

Indian Penal Code

The **Indian Penal Code (IPC)** is the main criminal code of India. It is a comprehensive code intended to cover all substantive aspects of criminal law. The code was drafted in 1860 on the recommendations of first law commission of India established in 1834 under the Charter Act of 1833 under the Chairmanship of Thomas Babington Macaulay. It came into force in British India during the early British Raj period in 1862. However, it did not apply automatically in the Princely states, which had their own courts and legal systems until the 1940s. The Code has since been amended several times and is now supplemented by other criminal provisions.

Indian Penal Code(IPC) was passed under the chairmanship of Lord Macaulay and was enforced in 1862, Lord Macaulay issued clarification for the people of India for implementation of this Code, because people were of the view that rule of Capital Punishment will be misused against them. Further more people were against foreign rule on Indian people.

The Indian Penal Code of 1860, sub-divided into twenty three chapters, comprises five hundred and eleven sections. The Code starts with an introduction, provides explanations and exceptions used in it, and covers a wide range of offences.

Under criminal law stages of a crime has very prominent role and which is punishable under Indian Penal Code. If a person commits a crime voluntarily or after preparation the doing of it involves four different stages because every crime is punishable under law. In every crime, there is first intention to commit it, secondly, preparation to commit

it, thirdly, attempt to commit it and fourthly the accomplishment. The stages can be explained as under

1. Intention

Intention is the first stage in the commission of an offence and known as mental stage. Intention is the direction of conduct towards the object chosen upon considering the motives which suggest the choice. But the law does not take notice of an intention, mere intention to commit an offence not followed by any act, cannot constitute an offence. The obvious reason for not prosecuting the accused at this stage is that it is very difficult for the prosecution to prove the guilty mind of a person.

2. Preparation

Preparation is the second stage in the commission of a crime. It means to arrange the necessary measures for the commission of the intended criminal act. Intention alone or the intention followed by a preparation is not enough to constitute the crime. Preparation has not been made punishable because in most of the cases the prosecution has failed to prove that the preparations in the question were made for the commission of the particular crime. If A purchases a pistol and keeps the same in his pocket duly loaded in order to kill his bitter enemy B, but does nothing more. A has not committed any offence as still he is at the stage of preparation and it will be impossible for the prosecution to prove that A was carrying the loaded pistol only for the purpose of killing B. Preparation When Punishable Generally, preparation to commit any offence is not punishable but in some exceptional cases preparation is punishable, following are some examples of such exceptional circumstances · Preparation to wage war against the Government Section 122, IPC 1860; · Preparation to commit depredation on territories of a power at peace with Government of India Section 126, IPC 1860; · Preparation to commit dacoity Section 399, IPC 1860; · Preparation for counterfeiting of coins or Government stamps Sections 233, 235, S. 255 and S. 257; · Possessing counterfeit coins, false weight or measurement and forged documents. Mere possession of these is a crime and no possessor can plead that he is still at the stage of preparation Sections 242, 243, 259, 266 and 474.

3. Attempt

Attempt is the direct movement towards the commission of a crime after the preparation is made. According to English law, a person may be guilty of an attempt to commit an offence if he does an act which is more than merely preparatory to the commission of the offence; and a person will be guilty of attempting to commit an offence even though the facts are such that the commission of the offence is impossible.

There are three essentials of an attempt: ·

Guilty intention to commit an offence; ·

Some act done towards the commission of the offence; ·

The act must fall short of the completed offence.

Attempt Under The Indian Penal Code, 1860 The Indian Penal Code has dealt with attempt in the following four different ways · Completed offences and attempts have been dealt with in the same section and same punishment is prescribed for both. Such provisions are contained in Sections 121, 124, 124A, 125, 130, 131, 152, 153A, Sections 161 to 165, Sections 196 to 200, 213, 240, 241, 251, 385, 387, 389, 391, 394, 395, 397, 459 and 460. Secondly, attempts to commit offences and commission of specific offences have been dealt with separately and separate punishments have been provided for attempt to commit such offences from those of the offences committed. Examples are murder is punished under section 302 and attempt to murder to murder under section 307; culpable homicide is punished under section 304 and attempt to commit culpable homicide under section 308; Robbery is punished under section 392 and attempt to commit robbery under section 393. · Thirdly, attempt to commit suicide is punished under section 309; · Fourthly, all other cases [where no specific provisions regarding attempt are made] are covered under section 511 which provides that the accused shall be punished with onehalf of the longest term of imprisonment provided for the offence or with prescribed fine or with both.

4. Accomplishment or Completion

The last stage in the commission of an offence is its accomplishment or completion. If the accused succeeds in his attempt to commit the crime, he will be guilty of the complete offence and if his attempt is unsuccessful he will be guilty of an attempt only. For example, A fires at B with the intention to kill him, if B dies, A will be guilty for committing the offence of murder and if B is only injured, it will be a case of attempt to murder.

Criminal Procedure Code, 1973, (The Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013)

The Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) is the main legislation on procedure for administration of substantive criminal law in India. It was enacted in 1973 and came into force on 1 April 1974. It provides the machinery for the investigation of crime, apprehension of suspected criminals, collection of evidence, determination of guilt or innocence of the accused person and the determination of punishment of the guilty. Additionally, it also deals with public nuisance, prevention of offences and maintenance of wife, child and parents. At present, the Act contains 484 Sections, 2 Schedules and 56 Forms. The Sections are divided into 37 Chapters. It Contents; Classification of Offences under the Code, Cognizable and Non cognizable Offences, Summons Case and Warrant Case, Territorial extent, Scope and Applicability, Functionaries under the Code, Sentences which Magistrates may pass, Bail, Summary trials, Judgement,

Judgements in abridged form , Compensation and costs , Post conviction orders, Appeal etc.,

The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on 19 March 2013 and by the Rajya Sabha on 21 March 2013, making certain changes criminal law in the Ordinance. The Bill received Presidential assent on 21 April 2013 and came into force from 3 April 2013. Recently in the year 2013 by the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 some important amendments have been made and some new provisions have been inserted with regard to the offences against women.

The Indian Evidence Act, 1872

Originally passed in India by the Imperial Legislative Council in 1872, during the British Raj, contains a set of rules and allied issues governing admissibility of evidence in the Indian courts of law. Importance The enactment and adoption of the Indian Evidence Act was a path breaking judicial measure introduced in India, which changed the entire system of concepts pertaining to admissibility of evidences in the Indian courts of law. Until then, the rules of evidences were based on the traditional legal systems of different social groups and communities of India and were different for different people depending on caste, religious faith and social position. The Indian Evidence Act introduced a standard set of law applicable to all Indians. The law is mainly based upon the firm work by Sir James Stephen, who could be called the founding father of this comprehensive piece of legislation. The Act The Indian Evidence Act, identified as Act no. 1 of 1872, and called the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, has eleven chapters and 167 sections, and came into force 1 September 1872. At that time, India was a part of the British Empire. Over a period of more than 135 years since its enactment, the Indian Evidence Act has basically retained its original form except certain amendments from time to time.

Applicability:

When India gained independence on 15 August 1947, the Act continued to be in force throughout the Republic of India and Pakistan, except the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Then, the Act continues in force in India, but it was repealed in Pakistan in 1984 by the Evidence Order 1984. It also applies to all judicial proceedings in the court, including the court martial. However, it does not apply on affidavits and arbitration. Contents This Act is divided into three parts and there are 11 chapters in total under this Act. Part 1 Part 1 deals with relevancy of the facts. There are two chapters under this part: the first chapter is a preliminary chapter which introduces to the Evidence Act and the second chapter specifically deals with the relevancy of the facts. Part 2 consists of chapters from 3 to 6. Chapter 3 deals with facts which need not be proved, chapter 4 deals with

oral evidence, chapter 5 deals with documentary evidence and chapter 6 deals with circumstances when documentary evidence has been given preference over the oral evidence. The last part, that is part 3, consists of chapter 7 to chapter 11. Chapter 7 talks about the burden of proof. Chapter 8 talks about estoppel, chapter 9 talks about witnesses, chapter 10 talks about examination of witnesses, and last chapter which is chapter 11 talks about improper admission and rejection of evidence.

V. Conclusion:

The ultimate objective of various laws relating to combat crime is to protect the society against criminals, maintain law and order and prevent crime and delinquency. It has to be accepted that despite legal, social, psychological and penal measures for combating crime, the problem still persists in alarming dimensions. With the change of time, new crimes are coming up and the traditional crimes are vanishing fast and with the change in society of new types of crime like cyber crime is best example of new kind of crime. Therefore, the latest amendments in law relating to these crimes are required. Apart from that the traditional outlook that crime prevention is only the concern of law enforcement agencies, must be changed and it should be treated as a social cause by involving every citizen to combat crime. It is only then that the measures to prevent crimes and public peace can be maintained in the community. Perhaps, the media can play a very crucial role in restoring people's faith in the agencies which are associated with the criminal justice administration. The Constitution of India and various criminal laws are there for the protection of law and order in society. However, to combat crime in India is not only duty of state but it is duty of every citizen of this country to protect the public interest at large.

FAQ's

1. What are laws available to combat crime in India?

Answer: There are many criminal laws available to combat crime in India. Indian Criminal Laws are divided into three major acts i.e. Indian Penal Code, 1860, Code of

Criminal Procedure, 1973 and Indian Evidence Act, 1872. Besides these major Acts, special Criminal Laws are also passed by Indian Parliament i.e. NDPS, Prevention of Corruption Act, Food Adulteration Act, Dowry Prevention Act, the Defence of India Act, etc., and there are thousands of minor laws made in India.

2. What are essential elements of criminal law?

Answer: There are four essential elements which constitute a crime, that there must be human being, Mens rea or guilty intention, Actus reus or illegal act or omission, Injury to another human being.

3. What is crime?

Answer: Blackstone defined crime as an act committed or omitted in violation of a public law either forbidding or commanding it. Stephen observed a crime is a violation of a right considered in reference to the evil tendency of such violation as regards the community at large. Oxford Dictionary defines crime as an act punishable by law as forbidden by statute or injurious to the public welfare.

4. What is law?

Answer: Simply law means rules or procedure for the society which has legal sanctioned. In general terms law means the system of rules which a particular country or community recognizes as regulating the actions of its members and which it may enforce by the imposition of penalties.

5. What are objectives of criminal law?

Answer: Jurisdictions around the world follow five objectives to enforce criminal law punishment: retribution, rehabilitation, restoration, incapacitation and deterrence. The value of each varies between different jurisdictions.

6. What are different stages of crime?

Answer: Under criminal law stages of a crime has very prominent role and which is punishable under Indian Penal Code. If a person commits a crime voluntarily or after preparation the doing of it involves four different stages because every crime is punishable under law. In every crime, there is first intention to commit it, secondly, preparation to commit it, thirdly, attempt to commit it and fourthly the accomplishment.

7. What is object of law to combat crime in India?

Answer: The object of law is to maintain law and order in society and to combat crime in society there must be some kind of punishment for culprits. A body of rules and statutes that defines conduct prohibited by the government because it threatens and

harms public safety and welfare and that establishes punishment to be imposed for the commission of such acts.

8. What is the role of criminal procedure code in combating crime in India?

Answer: The Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) is the main legislation on procedure for administration of substantive criminal law in India. It was enacted in 1973 and came into force on 1 April 1974. It provides the machinery for the investigation of crime, apprehension of suspected criminals, collection of evidence, determination of guilt or innocence of the accused person and the determination of punishment of the guilty.

9. What is the role of Indian Penal Code in combating crime in India?

Answer: The Indian Penal Code (IPC) is the main criminal code of India. It is a comprehensive code intended to cover all substantive aspects of criminal law. The Indian Penal Code of 1860, sub-divided into twenty three chapters, comprises five hundred and eleven sections. The Code starts with an introduction, provides explanations and exceptions used in it, and covers a wide range of offences.

10. What is the role of Indian Evidence Act, in combating crime in India?

Answer: The Indian Evidence Act, has eleven chapters and 167 sections, and came into force 1 September 1872. At that time, India was a part of the British Empire. Over a period of more than 135 years since its enactment, the Indian Evidence Act has basically retained its original form except certain amendments from time to time. It provides procedure for collection of evidence and importance of evidence in criminal trial to decide the cases. Without evidence law does not punish any person because until the offence is proved every person is deemed to be considered innocent under law.

Quiz

1. Which of the following is not essential element of crime?

- A) Mens Rea
- B) Actus Reas
- C) injury to another
- D) without intention

2. Which of the following statements is admissible into evidence?

- A) only oral
- B) only documentary
- C) oral and documentary both
- D) None of the above

3. According to section 44 of Indian penal code, the injury should be illegally caused to any person;
 - A) in body,
 - B) mind,
 - C) reputation or property
 - D) All of the above
4. Mens rea means
 - A) guilty intention
 - B) good mind
 - C) without intention
 - D) not guilty mind
5. **Actus Reus means**
 - A) guilty act or omission
 - B) without any guilty act
 - C) not guilty act
 - D) None of the above
6. What number of witnesses will be required for the proof of any act?
 - A) no particular number
 - B) at least one eye-witness
 - C) two witnesses with regard to document
 - D) one party and one witness
7. What is the offence, preparation whereof is also offence?
 - A) Theft
 - B) Dacoity
 - C) Murder
 - D) Rape
8. Which of the following is not objective of criminal law to combat crime?
 - A) To prevent the occurrence of crime.
 - B) To punish the transgressors and the criminals.
 - C) To rehabilitate the transgressors and the criminals.
 - D) To allow criminals to move freely in society
9. Which of the following is not criminal law?
 - A) The Code of Criminal Procedure,1973
 - B) Indian Penal Code,1860
 - C) The Contract Act,1872
 - D) None of the above

10. The Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 come into force on

- A) 1st April 1973
- B) 1st April 1974
- C) 1st April 1975
- D) 1st April 1976

Answers: 1. D, 2.C 3.D, 4. A,5.A,6A,.7.B,8.D,9.C,10.B

Assignment:

1. What is importance of law in society to combat crime?
2. What is primary object of law?
3. What are essential elements of criminal law?
4. What is difference between attempt and preparation of crime?

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Acts and legislations

Indian Penal Code, 1860

Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013

Indian Evidence Act,1872

Glossary-

Attempt: make an effort to achieve or complete (something difficult)

Intention: a thing intended; an aim or plan.

Preparation: the action or process of preparing or being prepared for use or consideration.

Accomplishment: something that has been achieved successfully.

Estoppels: the principle which precludes a person from asserting something contrary to what is implied by a previous action or statement of that person or by a previous pertinent judicial determination.

Mens rea: the intention or knowledge of wrongdoing that constitutes part of a crime, as opposed to the action or conduct of the accused.

Actus Reus: action or conduct which is a constituent element of a crime, as opposed to the mental state of the accused.

NDPS: The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985,

Evidence: the available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid

Retribution: punishment inflicted on someone as vengeance for a wrong or criminal act.

Rehabilitation: the action of restoring someone to health or normal life through training and therapy after imprisonment, addiction, or illness.

Restoration: the action of returning something to a former owner, place, or condition.

Incapacitation: Incapacitation in the context of sentencing philosophy is the effect of a sentence in positively preventing (rather than merely deterring) future offending

Deterrence: the action of discouraging an action or event through instilling doubt or fear of the consequences.

Summary:

In general terms law means the system of rules which a particular country or community recognizes as regulating the actions of its members and which it may enforce by the imposition of penalties. The main object of law is to combat crime in society. There are various laws available in India to combat crime. Indian Criminal Laws are divided into three major Acts i.e. Indian Penal Code, 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and Indian Evidence Act, 1872. Besides these major Acts, special Criminal Laws are also passed by Indian Parliament i.e. NDPS, Prevention of Corruption Act, Food Adulteration Act, Dowry Prevention Act, the Defence of India Act, etc., . And there are thousands of minor laws made in India. The objective of criminal law is to protect society from evil and to punish a culprit. There are four elements which to constitute a crime, these are: there must be human being, Mens rea or guilty intention, Actus reus or illegal act or omission, Injury to another human being. Though, laws are there for the punishment to criminals, crime rate is not going down. With development of technology, there are new types of crimes are coming up like cyber crime. Therefore, new techniques are required to deal with new type's crime by providing strict and rigorous punishment for violation of those acts.