

Disclaimer

This handbook is intended for informational and educational purposes only. It is not a substitute for professional legal advice. The laws and procedures can be complex and are subject to change. For specific legal problems, you must consult with a qualified advocate.

A Compassionate Feeder's Guide to Safety & Legal Action in India

Introduction

Feeding community animals is a compassionate and legally protected act. However, it can sometimes lead to friction with residents who are misinformed or hostile. This guide is designed to empower you with the knowledge to feed animals responsibly, de-escalate conflicts, and take firm legal action when necessary to protect yourself and the animals you care for.

Part 1: The "SAFE" Protocol for Conflict Prevention

The best way to handle a conflict is to prevent it from happening. By following responsible feeding practices, you remove most legitimate grounds for complaint and demonstrate your commitment to community welfare.

S - Strategic Location & Timing

- **Choose a Spot Wisely:** Do not feed directly in front of someone's private residence, entrance gate, in a children's play area, or in a location that blocks a common pathway or parking spot. Feed in the designated feeding spot and if the feeding spot is not designated, feed in a safe spot away from humans.
- **Find a Neutral Corner:** Identify a quiet, low-traffic corner of the locality that is unlikely to cause inconvenience to anyone.
- **Feed at Off-Peak Hours:** Feeding late at night or very early in the morning minimizes interactions and potential conflicts. This will also help you accustom dogs to new feeding spots slowly and steadily.

A - Accountable & Clean

- **Clean Up, Every Single Time:** This is the most crucial step. Never leave food scraps, plastic bags, or disposable containers behind. Bring a garbage bag and clean the feeding spot meticulously after the dogs have eaten.
- **Use Appropriate Containers:** Use newspapers, disposable plates, or old bowls that you can either clean or dispose of properly.
- **Manage Water:** Provide fresh water, but do not leave stagnant water that can become a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Tip out excess water after the dogs have had their fill.
- **Promote Sterilization & Vaccination:** Work with local NGOs or the municipality to get the dogs in your area sterilized (neutered/spayed) and vaccinated against rabies. This is the single most effective way to manage the street dog population humanely and address

residents' fears. Keep a record of the vaccinated dogs. You can reach out to our [rabies_mukt_bharat](#) page for vaccinations.

F - Friendly & Factual Communication

- **Stay Calm and Polite:** If someone approaches you, do not be aggressive. A calm and polite demeanor can de-escalate the situation.
- **Educate, Don't Argue:** Inform them politely that you are following Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) guidelines and Supreme Court orders which protect the rights of citizens to feed stray animals.
- **Highlight the Benefits:** Explain that by feeding in one spot, you are helping to manage the dog population, making them friendly, and ensuring they are vaccinated, which makes the entire community safer.

E - Equipment & Awareness

- **Always Carry Your Phone:** Ensure it is charged. It is your most important tool for safety and evidence collection.
- **Carry a Water Bottle & First-Aid Kit:** For both yourself and the animals.
- **Be Aware of Your Surroundings:** Avoid dark, isolated alleys where you could be cornered. If possible, go with a fellow feeder.

Part 2: The "REACT" Protocol During an Altercation

If you are confronted aggressively, your priority is your safety and the safety of the animal.

R - Remain Calm & Don't Retaliate

- Do not get into a shouting match or physical fight. Your calm response is your strength. Do not mirror their aggression.

E - Engage Safely & Maintain Distance

- Keep a safe physical distance between yourself and the aggressor. Do not allow them to corner you. Ensure you have a clear path to retreat.

A - Activate Recording

- **The Golden Rule:** Start recording on your phone immediately.
- **Announce it Clearly:** State in a loud, clear voice, "I am feeling threatened by your behaviour and I am recording this for my safety." This serves two purposes: it often deters the aggressor, and it proves the recording was not made surreptitiously.
- **Capture Everything:** Record their face, their words, their actions, any weapons, and the license plates of their vehicles. Even if it's just an audio recording, it is valuable evidence.

C - Call for Help Loudly

- Dial 112 (National Emergency Number).

- Announce it: "You are threatening me and I am calling the police on 112 right now."
- Call a friend, family member, or a fellow animal welfare volunteer and put the phone on speaker. Let the aggressor know that a third party is listening.

T - Terminate & Retreat

- Your goal is not to win the argument; it is to get to safety.
- Once you have recorded the incident and called for help, leave the area. Do not stay to argue your point. You can come back and feed the dogs later when it is safe.
- If an animal is injured, your priority after ensuring your own safety is to get them medical help.

Part 3: The "FILE" Protocol for Evidence & Reporting

After you have retreated to a safe place, it is time to take firm, documented action.

F - First Information (Document Everything)

- **Write It Down Immediately:** While the memory is fresh, write down a detailed, chronological account of the incident. Include:
 - **Who:** Name/description of the aggressor(s).
 - **What:** The exact threats, abuses, and actions. Quote them if possible.
 - **When:** Exact date and time.
 - **Where:** Precise location.
 - **Witnesses:** Names and contact numbers of anyone who saw the incident.

I - Immediate Medical & Veterinary Care

- **For Yourself:** If you have been physically assaulted in any way (pushed, hit, etc.), go to a government hospital immediately and get a Medico-Legal Certificate (MLC) made. This is non-negotiable and serves as primary evidence of your injuries.
- **For the Animal:** If an animal was hit, kicked, or injured, take it to a government or private veterinary hospital immediately. Get a detailed report from the vet describing the injuries. Keep all bills and prescriptions. This report is the animal's MLC.

L - Lodge a Formal Complaint

1. **Police Control Room (PCR):** The 112 call you made already created a digital record of the event.
2. **Written Complaint:** Go to your local police station and submit the detailed written account you prepared.
3. **Cite the Law:** Explicitly mention the relevant legal sections in your complaint (see list below). This shows you are aware of your rights and forces the police to take the matter seriously.

4. **Demand an FIR:** For cognizable offenses like injuring an animal (Sec 429 IPC) or threatening to kill (Sec 506 IPC), the police are obligated to file an FIR.
5. **Get a Receipt:** Do not leave without a receipt. This could be an FIR number, an NCR (Non-Cognizable Report) number, or at the very least, a "receiving" stamp and signature on a copy of your complaint (DD entry).

E - Evidence Compilation

- Create a dedicated digital folder for the case.
- Store your video/audio recordings (back them up on the cloud).
- Scan and save your written complaint, the police receipt, your MLC, the vet's report and bills, and photos of any injuries (to you or the animal).
- Keep screenshots of any related threats on social media or WhatsApp.

Part 4: Know Your Legal Rights (Your Shield)

Knowledge of the law is your best defense. RWAs or individuals cannot create rules that violate the law of the land.

Nature of Offense	Relevant Legal Section(s) (IPC / BNS)	Explanation
Right to Feed Animals	Constitution of India, Article 51A(g)	It is the fundamental duty of every citizen to have compassion for living creatures.
	Supreme Court & High Court Orders	Multiple court orders (e.g., Delhi High Court in the <i>Dr. Maya D. Chablani</i> case) have affirmed the right of citizens to feed community animals and have instructed police to protect feeders.
Threatening/Intimidating You	IPC Sec 503, 506 / BNS Sec 351	Criminal Intimidation. If they threaten to kill you or cause grievous hurt, it is a cognizable and non-bailable offense.

Nature of Offense	Relevant Legal Section(s) (IPC / BNS)	Explanation
Abusing/Insulting You	IPC Sec 504 / BNS Sec 350 IPC Sec 509 / BNS Sec 79 (for women)	Intentional insult to provoke. Insulting the modesty of a woman.
Physically Assaulting You	IPC Sec 323, 325 / BNS Sec 115, 116	Voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt.
Killing or Injuring an Animal	Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (Sec 11) IPC Sec 428, 429 / BNS Sec 323, 324	Treating an animal with cruelty. Mischief by killing or maiming an animal. This is a cognizable offense.

Remember: A Resident Welfare Association (RWA) cannot legally ban the feeding of stray animals. They can, however, work with feeders to designate specific feeding spots to ensure cleanliness and avoid nuisance. Their rules do not override the law.

A Citizen's Guide to Reporting a Crime in India

This guide provides a step-by-step process for reporting a crime in India, understanding the terminology used by the police, and knowing your rights if you face resistance. It incorporates references to both the erstwhile Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, and the new **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023**, which has replaced it. While the names of the offenses and section numbers have changed, the fundamental procedure for reporting a crime, largely governed by the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and its successor the **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023**, remains conceptually the same.

1. How to Report a Crime in India?

You can report a crime through several channels:

- **Verbally:** Go to the nearest police station and narrate the incident to the officer in charge. The officer is obligated to write it down.
- **In Writing:** You can submit a written complaint at the police station. Always ask for a receipt or an acknowledgment.
- **Dialing Emergency Numbers:** Use the national or state-level emergency contact numbers.
- **Online Portals:** Many states now have online portals for filing complaints, especially for certain types of crimes like cybercrime or lost articles.

Key Emergency Numbers

- **112:** National Emergency Response System (NERS) - The recommended, all-in-one emergency number.
- **100:** Police Control Room (being phased out in many areas in favour of 112).
- **1091:** Women's Helpline.
- **1930:** National Cyber Crime Reporting Helpline.

2. The Benefits of Dialing 112

Dialing **112** is the most effective first step in an emergency. It connects you to the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS), which has significant advantages over older numbers like 100.

- **Integrated System:** A single number for Police, Fire, and Health emergencies. Your call is routed to the appropriate department automatically.
- **GPS Tracking:** When you call from a mobile phone, the system can often pinpoint your location, which is crucial if you don't know the exact address or are in transit.
- **Digital Trail:** Every call to 112 is digitally logged, timestamped, and recorded. This creates an immediate and undeniable record that you attempted to seek police assistance, which can be vital later on.
- **Accountability:** The digital trail ensures accountability. It is much harder for a police officer to claim a complaint was never made if there is a record of the 112 call.
- **Faster Dispatch:** The system is designed to dispatch the nearest emergency vehicle (like a PCR van) to your location quickly.

3. Understanding Police Records: DD, NCR, and FIR

When you approach the police, your complaint will be recorded in one of three ways. Understanding the difference is crucial to knowing your rights.

Feature	DD Entry (Daily Diary Entry)	NCR (Non-Cognizable Report)	FIR (First Information Report)
Full Form	Daily Diary Entry / Station Diary Entry	Non-Cognizable Report	First Information Report
Purpose	To record every event, visit, and piece of information that comes to the police	To record complaints about non-cognizable offenses .	To record information about cognizable offenses .

Feature	DD Entry (Daily Diary Entry)	NCR (Non-Cognizable Report)	FIR (First Information Report)
	station's notice. It's the station's logbook.		
Type of Offense	Not for a specific offense, but a record of an event (e.g., a citizen visit, a patrol departure). Your complaint might start as a DD entry.	Less serious offenses where police cannot arrest without a warrant and cannot start an investigation without a court order (e.g., simple assault, mischief, public nuisance).	Serious offenses where the police can arrest a suspect without a warrant and have the authority to start an investigation immediately (e.g., theft, robbery, murder, rape).
Legal Provision	Governed by Police Regulations of each state.	Section 155 of CrPC / Section 174 of BNSS.	Section 154 of CrPC / Section 173 of BNSS.
Police Action	No direct investigation is initiated based on a DD entry alone.	Police record the complaint and advise the complainant to approach the court (Magistrate) for further action.	The investigation begins immediately. Police can visit the crime scene, collect evidence, and make arrests.
Key Takeaway	A DD number proves you visited the station, but it is not proof that a criminal case has been registered.	An NCR is a formal record of a complaint for a minor offense.	An FIR is the most important document . It sets the entire process of criminal justice in motion.

What is a Zero FIR? A Zero FIR is an FIR that can be filed in any police station, regardless of its jurisdiction over the crime location. The station registers it, gives it the serial number '0', and then transfers it to the appropriate police station. This is a crucial provision to ensure that a victim, especially in cases of serious crimes, can report the matter without the delay of locating the correct police station.

4. Escalation Mechanism: If Police Refuse to Register a Complaint

It is the mandatory duty of the police to register an FIR when they receive information about a cognizable offense. If an officer refuses, do not despair. Follow this escalation mechanism:

Step 1: Written Complaint and Acknowledgment

- Give your complaint in writing to the Officer-in-Charge of the Police Station.
- If they refuse to accept it or register an FIR, insist on getting a **DD (Daily Diary) number** as proof that you visited the station and attempted to file a complaint.

Step 2: Approach Senior Police Officers

- Under **Section 154(3) of the CrPC** (or Section 173(3) of the BNSS), if the local police station refuses to file an FIR, you can send the substance of your written complaint to a senior officer, such as the **Superintendent of Police (SP)**, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), or Commissioner of Police.
- **Method:** Send the written complaint via **Registered Post with Acknowledgment Due (RPAD)**. This creates a formal, documented trail. The RPAD slip is your proof of delivery.
- If the senior officer is satisfied that the complaint discloses a cognizable offense, they will either investigate the case themselves or direct a subordinate officer to do so.

Step 3: Approach the Court

- This is the most powerful remedy if the police fail to act.
- Under **Section 156(3) of the CrPC** (or Section 175(3) of the BNSS), you can file a complaint directly before the **Judicial Magistrate/Metropolitan Magistrate** having jurisdiction.
- You will need the assistance of a lawyer for this step.
- If the Magistrate is satisfied with your complaint, they can order the police to register the FIR and investigate the matter. The police are legally bound to obey this court order.

5. Ensuring Adequate Documentation to Aid Your Complaint

A well-documented complaint is a strong complaint. The more evidence and clear information you provide, the easier it is for the police and courts to act.

A. The Golden Rule: Who, What, When, Where, Why, How

Structure your complaint to answer these questions clearly.

- **Who:** Who is the victim? Who are the accused (if known)? Who are the witnesses?
- **What:** What exactly happened? Describe the incident in a chronological, step-by-step manner.
- **When:** The exact date and time of the incident. If not exact, provide the closest approximation.
- **Where:** The precise location of the crime.

- **Why:** What was the motive, if you know it?
- **How:** How was the crime committed? What weapons or tools were used?

B. Checklist for Documentation and Evidence

- **Written Narrative:** Write down everything you remember as soon as possible while the memory is fresh. This will form the basis of your complaint.
- **Photographic/Video Evidence:** Take pictures or videos of injuries, property damage, the crime scene, or any other relevant detail.
- **Digital Evidence:** Take original screenshots with visible timestamps; export chat/email with headers; backup to cloud; do not alter devices; note URLs and upload times.

65B Certificate: If you plan to produce electronic records (photos, emails, WhatsApp exports), arrange a Section 65B Indian Evidence Act certificate from the person/system in charge.

CCTV: Notify premises owners promptly; request

Overview of Animal Cruelty Laws in India

Laws pertaining to animal cruelty in India are not contained within a single code. They are primarily spread across three main pieces of legislation:

1. **The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960:** The principal legislation specifically designed to address animal cruelty.
2. **The Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC) / Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS):** These penal codes address animal cruelty under the offense of "mischief," treating animals as property.
3. **The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** This is a specialized and strict law that deals with the protection of wild animals, birds, and plants.

1. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960

This is the most direct and comprehensive law on the subject. It applies primarily to domestic and captive animals.

Key Offenses under Section 11(1) of the PCA Act

Section 11(1) defines various forms of cruelty. It is an offense if any person:

- **(a)** Beats, kicks, over-rides, over-drives, over-loads, tortures, or otherwise treats any animal so as to subject it to unnecessary pain or suffering.
- **(b)** Employs any animal which, by reason of any disease, infirmity, wound, or sore, is unfit to be so employed.
- **(c)** Willfully and unreasonably administers any injurious drug or substance.

- **(d)** Conveys or carries any animal in such a manner or position as to cause it unnecessary pain or suffering.
- **(e)** Keeps or confines any animal in any cage or receptacle which does not measure sufficiently in height, length, and breadth to permit the animal a reasonable opportunity for movement.
- **(f)** Keeps for an unreasonable time any animal chained or tethered upon an unreasonably short or heavy chain or cord.
- **(g)** Being the owner, fails to provide sufficient food, drink, or shelter.
- **(h)** Being the owner, abandons any animal in circumstances which render it likely that it will suffer pain by reason of starvation or thirst.
- **(i)** Willfully permits any animal, for which he is the owner, to go at large in any street while the animal is affected with a contagious or infectious disease.
- **(j)** Offers for sale or possesses any animal which is suffering pain by reason of mutilation, starvation, thirst, overcrowding, or other ill-treatment.
- **(k)** Mutilates or kills any animal (including stray dogs) by methods such as strychnine injections, or in any other unnecessarily cruel manner.
- **(l)** Organizes, keeps, or uses any place for animal fighting or baiting.

Penalty under the PCA Act

The penalty under this Act is a major point of criticism for being outdated and extremely low.

- **First Offense:** A fine which may extend to **fifty rupees (₹50)**.
- **Subsequent Offense (within 3 years):** A fine of not less than twenty-five rupees but which may extend to **one hundred rupees (₹100)**, or imprisonment for up to three months, or both.

2. Provisions under Penal Codes: IPC & BNS

The IPC and its successor, the BNS, classify cruelty against animals as an act of **mischief**, causing wrongful loss or damage to the "property" (the animal) of the owner. These sections are invoked for more severe acts like killing or maiming.

Offense	Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860	Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023	Key Explanation
Mischief by killing or maiming animal of	Section 428	Section 323	This section applies to killing, poisoning, maiming, or rendering useless any animal of the value of ₹10 or upwards. The penalty is imprisonment

Offense	Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860	Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023	Key Explanation
the value of ten rupees.			for up to two years, or a fine, or both.
Mischief by killing or maiming cattle, etc., of any value or any animal of the value of fifty rupees.	Section 429	Section 324	This is a more stringent section for killing, poisoning, maiming, or rendering useless specific high-value animals like an elephant, camel, horse, mule, buffalo, bull, cow, or ox , regardless of their value. It also applies to any other animal of the value of ₹50 or upwards. The penalty is imprisonment for up to five years, or a fine, or both.

3. Procedural Aspects: CrPC & BNSS

The Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and its successor, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), dictate how these offenses are handled by the police and courts.

Section (IPC/BNS)	Offense	Cognizable / Non-Cognizable	Bailable / Non-Bailable	Trial Court
Sec 11, PCA Act	Cruelty under PCA Act	Cognizable	Bailable	Judicial Magistrate of the first class
428 IPC / 323 BNS	Mischief by killing/maiming animal (value ₹10+)	Cognizable	Bailable	Judicial Magistrate of the first class
429 IPC / 324 BNS	Mischief by killing/maim	Cognizable	Bailable	Judicial Magistra

Section (IPC/BNS)	Offense	Cognizable / Non-Cognizable	Bailable / Non-Bailable	Trial Court
	ing cattle or high-value animal (value ₹50+)			te of the first class

Key Definitions:

- **Cognizable Offense:** An offense for which a police officer may arrest without a warrant.
- **Bailable Offense:** An offense where bail is a matter of right.

4. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

This Act is for the protection of wild animals, not domestic ones. It is extremely strict.

- **Applicability:** Applies to animals specified in **Schedules I, II, III, and IV** of the Act. These are wild animals, and harming them is a serious offense.
- **Prohibition of Hunting (Section 9):** This section prohibits the hunting of any wild animal specified in the Schedules. "Hunting" is defined broadly to include killing, injuring, capturing, and even attempting to do so.
- **Penalties:** The penalties under this act are severe, especially for animals listed in Schedule I or Part II of Schedule II.
 - Imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than **three years** but may extend to **seven years**.
 - A fine which shall not be less than **ten thousand rupees (₹10,000)**.

Summary of Relevant Laws

Legislation	Applicable To	Key Provision(s)	General Nature of Penalty
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960	Domestic and captive animals	Section 11(1)	Very Low: Fines from ₹10 to ₹100.

Legislation	Applicable To	Key Provision(s)	General Nature of Penalty
IPC / BNS	Any animal treated as 'property'	IPC 428, 429 / BNS 323, 324	Moderate: Imprisonment up to 5 years and/or fine.
Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972	Wild animals, birds, and plants listed in Schedules	Section 9 (Prohibition of Hunting)	Very High: Mandatory imprisonment (3-7 years) and significant fines.

Offenses Against a Person (Threats, Assault, Harassment)

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The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 has replaced the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860. The procedural aspects for filing complaints and investigations remain governed by the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973.

1. Threatening a Person's Safety (Criminal Intimidation)

This involves threatening someone with injury to their person, reputation, or property to cause alarm or make them do something they are not legally bound to do.

Offense	Old IPC Section	New BNS Section	Nature & Punishment
Criminal Intimidation	Sec. 503	Sec. 351	Cognizable, Bailable, Non-compoundable. Punishment: Imprisonment up to 2 years, or fine, or both.
Criminal Intimidation with anonymous communication	Implicitly under 503	Sec. 352	Enhanced provision for threats delivered anonymously or by unsigned documents.
Criminal Intimidation to cause	Sec. 506	Sec. 353	Cognizable, Non-bailable (in most states), Non-compoundable. Punishment:

Offense	Old IPC Section	New BNS Section	Nature & Punishment
death/grievous hurt			Imprisonment up to 7 years, or fine, or both.

Application: This covers direct verbal threats, threats over WhatsApp, calls, messages, or emails. Screenshots and call recordings are crucial evidence.

2. Threatening/Cyber Bullying over WhatsApp, Calls, or Messages

Cyberbullying is not a single defined offense but is covered under a combination of the above laws and the Information Technology Act, 2000.

Offense	Relevant Law & Section	Nature & Punishment
Sending offensive messages	IT Act, Sec. 66A	STRUCK DOWN by Supreme Court. Cannot be used.
Sending threatening messages	IT Act, Sec. 66C BNS Sec. 351 / 353	Punishable for identity theft and cheating by personation. Used alongside BNS 351/353 for the threat content.
Publishing sexually explicit material	IT Act, Sec. 67A	Cognizable, Non-bailable. Punishment: Imprisonment up to 5 years and fine on first conviction.
Cyber Stalking	IT Act, Sec. 67B	Cognizable, Non-bailable. Punishment: Imprisonment up to 5 years and fine.

Key Takeaway: For cyber threats, the **content of the threat** is booked under the BNS (e.g., Sec. 351 for intimidation), and the **medium used** (anonymous communication, cheating by personation) is booked under the IT Act and other BNS sections.

3. Hitting Someone with Intent to Hurt (Assault & Criminal Force)

These sections cover the spectrum of physical violence, from a simple slap to a more severe attack.

Offense	Old IPC Section	New BNS Section	Nature & Punishment
Assault (Making a person apprehend violence)	Sec. 351	Sec. 297(1)	Cognizable, Bailable, Compoundable. Punishment: Imprisonment up to 3 months, or fine up to ₹500, or both.
Criminal Force (Using force without consent)	Sec. 350	Sec. 296	Cognizable, Bailable, Compoundable. Punishment: Imprisonment up to 3 months, or fine up to ₹500, or both.
Voluntarily causing hurt	Sec. 323	Sec. 115(1)	Cognizable, Bailable, Compoundable. Punishment: Imprisonment up to 1 year, or fine up to ₹1000, or both.
Voluntarily causing grievous hurt	Sec. 325	Sec. 117(1)	Cognizable, Non-bailable, Non-compoundable. Punishment: Imprisonment up to 7 years and fine.

4. Passing Lewd Comments & Abusing Someone (Sexual Harassment & Defamation)

This can be broken down into sexual harassment (for lewd comments) and criminal defamation or obscene acts (for abuse).

Offense	Old IPC Section	New BNS Section	Nature & Punishment
Sexual Harassment (Eve-teasing, lewd comments, gestures)	Sec. 354A	Sec. 74	Cognizable, Non-bailable, Non-compoundable. Punishment: Rigorous imprisonment up to 3 years, or fine, or both.
Act outraging modesty (Assault or use of criminal force)	Sec. 354	Sec. 73	Cognizable, Non-bailable, Non-compoundable. Punishment: Rigorous imprisonment up to 3 years, or fine, or both.

Offense	Old IPC Section	New BNS Section	Nature & Punishment
to woman with intent to outrage her modesty)			ent: Imprisonment from 1 to 5 years, and fine.
Criminal Defamation (Making or publishing imputations to harm reputation)	Sec. 499	Sec. 354	Non-cognizable, Bailable, Compoundable (with permission of court). Punishment: Simple imprisonment up to 2 years, or fine, or both.
Uttering obscene words in public	Sec. 294	Sec. 294	Cognizable, Bailable, Compoundable. Punishment: Imprisonment up to 3 months, or fine, or both.

5. Relevant Procedural Laws (Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973)

These sections dictate *how* to get these cases registered and investigated.

CrPC Section	Purpose & Application
Sec. 154	Registration of an FIR. For all cognizable offenses (like BNS 351, 353, 73, 74, 115, 117), the police are duty-bound to register an FIR immediately.
Sec. 156(3)	Application to Magistrate. If the police refuse to register your complaint/FIR, you can file a written application before a Magistrate requesting them to direct the police to register the FIR and investigate.
Sec. 200	Filing a Private Complaint. You can file a criminal complaint directly before a Magistrate, who will then examine you and the witnesses and may take cognizance of the offense.

Summary Table for Quick Reference

Offense	Primary BNS Section	Cognizable?	Bailable?
Threatening Calls/Messages	351, 352, 353	Yes	Depends on severity (353 is often Non-bailable)
Cyberbullying	351, 352 + IT Act	Yes	Usually Bailable
Hitting/Simple Hurt	115	Yes	Yes
Hitting/Grievous Hurt	117	Yes	No
Lewd Comments/Sexual Harassment	74	Yes	No
Abusing/Criminal Defamation	354	No	Yes

Actionable Advice: When reporting, provide all evidence (screenshots, call recordings, medical reports for assault, witness details). Clearly state which sections you believe have been violated. For cyber offenses, report to the cyber crime cell of your city in addition to the local police station.