

Mobile Theft Recovery Kit (VakilDost Verified)

Part 1: The Legal Framework (Updated 2026)

In India, the laws governing theft changed on **July 1, 2024**. The old IPC sections have been replaced by the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)**.

Crime Type	Old Law (IPC)	New Law (BNS)	Punishment
Simple Theft	Section 378/379	Section 303(2)	Up to 3 years jail and/or fine.
Snatching	(Handled as Theft)	Section 304	Up to 3 years jail + mandatory fine.
Petty Theft	—	Section 303(2) Proviso	Community Service (if value < ₹5,000 & 1st offense).
Robbery	Section 390/392	Section 309	Rigorous imprisonment up to 10-14 years.

Part 2: Immediate Action Checklist (The "Golden Hour")

1. Digital Lockdown (Do this in the first 30 minutes)

- **Locate:** Use **Find My Device** (Android) or **Find My iPhone**. If you see it moving, **do not** confront the thief. Take a screenshot of the location.
- **Wipe:** If recovery is impossible, use the "Erase Device" command remotely.
- **Secure Money:** Call your bank or use another device to **Freeze UPI (GPay/PhonePe)** and Mobile Banking apps immediately.

2. Telecom & Hardware Block (CEIR Portal)

- **Block SIM:** Call your service provider (Airtel/Jio/Vi) and block the SIM to prevent OTP misuse.
- **Block IMEI:** Visit the Government's **Sanchar Saathi (CEIR) Portal** (ceir.sancharsaathi.gov.in).
 - *You will need:* A copy of the Police Complaint/FIR and your phone's Invoice.
 - *Effect:* This blacklists the IMEI across all Indian networks, making the phone a "brick" for the thief.

3. Evidence Gathering

- **Note the Details:** Exact time, location (landmark), and description of the person (if snatched).

- **CCTV:** If theft happened near a shop or society gate, immediately request the owner to preserve the footage from that specific timeframe.
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Part 3: Filing the FIR (Step-by-Step)

If the police refuse to register an FIR:

1. **Draft a Written Complaint:** Address it to the SHO (Station House Officer) of the local station.
 2. **Senior Intervention:** If the SHO refuses, send the complaint via Registered Post to the **DCP/SSP** of your district.
 3. **Section 173(3) BNSS:** Remind the officer that under the new **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita**, they are mandated to register a preliminary enquiry or FIR for cognizable offenses.
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Part 4: Essential "VakilDost" FIR Template

(Copy & Fill this for the Police Station)

To, The Station House Officer (SHO),

[Name of Police Station, e.g., Sector 20, Noida]

Subject: Complaint for registration of FIR regarding Mobile Theft/Snatching.

Respected Sir/Ma'am,

I, [Your Name], s/o [Father's Name], residing at [Address], wish to report the theft of my mobile phone.

Incident Details:

- **Date & Time:** [e.g., 04 April 2026 at 10:30 AM]
- **Location:** [Exact spot/landmark]
- **Device:** [Brand & Model, e.g., Samsung S24]
- **IMEI 1/2:** [Find this on your original box]
- **Mobile Number:** [Number of the lost SIM]

Brief Description: [Write 2-3 lines: "While I was walking near the metro station, two persons on a bike snatched my phone and fled towards..."]

Please register an FIR under **Section 303/304 of BNS** and provide me with the FIR number for insurance and CEIR blocking purposes.

Sincerely,

[Your Name & Signature]

[Your Contact Number]
