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THE ROLE OF INDIAN CYBERCRIME COORDINATION CENTRE IN SAFEGUARDING CYBERSPACE

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Abstract

The world was separated due to distance and boundaries that has been breached and intruded by virtual world. The cyberspace is a virtual space where people can learn, talk, share and get entertained and where physical distance is remains no more a barrier. The boon of internet technology gave birth to new type of criminals called as cybercriminals who took advantage of people's ignorance of technology and upstanding of cyberspace. The word cybercrime is a combination two different words "Cyber" and "Crime" which refers to crime committed over the internet or cyberspace. Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre was established by the Ministry of Home Affairs to handle issues related to cybercrime. The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre play an important role in safeguarding Indian cyberspace. It facilities coordination with various law enforcement agencies to tackle cybercrime effectively.

Introduction

Technological and scientific growth has always been regarded as sign of human growth and progress. Technological advancements is always seen with aspiration that it will bring forward new method of progress. The growth and development in the field of Information and communication technology has brought drastic changes in human society. It has brought changes in all spheres of human life and changed the mode of learning, earning, sharing and entertaining.

The world was separated due to distance and boundaries that has been breached and intruded by virtual world. The growth and development in the information and communication technology has changed and eased mode of human communication and spread its web all over the world entangling the whole world in its network and gave birth to a new world – Virtual world or cyberspace.

The cyberspace is a virtual space where people can learn, talk, share and get entertained and where physical distance is remains no more a barrier. The internet has connected the world and brought a new world opportunities.

New legal regime – The Information Technology Act, 2000

Globally the world was moving towards paperless transaction, egovernance and records which required a new legal framework hence, India adopted the Information Technology Act, 2000[273] which is based on the model law on Electronic Commerce (1996) developed by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).[274]

The Information Technology Act, 2000 is fundamentally enabling Act which gave recognition to new technological transaction like ecommerce, egovernance, erecords and digital signature etc. The whole object of the Information Technology Act, 2000 was to recognition to paperless transaction on par with

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[273] https://www.indiacode.nic.in/handle/123456789/1999
[274] https://uncitral.un.org/

paper based transaction. It hardly contained penal provisions related to cybercrime.

The crime of web – Cybercrime

The boon of internet technology gave birth to new type of criminals called as cybercriminals who took advantage of people's ignorance of technology and upstanding of cyberspace. The cyberspace was soon flooded with cyber crooks who saw a wonderful opportunity in making financial gains.

The word cybercrime is a combination two different words "Cyber" and "Crime" which refers to crime committed over the internet or cyberspace. It would be surprising to know that the first law related to cyberspace, the Information Technology Act, 2000, was mainly to address the issue of ecommerce, egovernance and erecords and hardly touched the issue of cybercrime which is evident from its object and provisions[275] of the Information Technology Act, 2000.[276]

Cybercrime is rampant and disruptive which is evidence from global and national statically. It is predicted that cybercrime can cause damages of "$9.5 trillion USD globally in 2024" which if converted in a comprehensible language would mean "world's third largest economy."[277]

The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) [278], informed[279] that in an average 7000 cybercrime complaints were reported daily which is a horrific increase of 60.0% in comparison from the period of 2022 to 2023 and in terms of monetary loss it is over $1 billion in the year 2023.[280] The extent of cybercrime is alarming both globally and nationally and it has become concerning as India has taken the

crown of second highest number of internet users in the world.[281]

Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre

Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre was established by the Ministry of Home Affairs to handle issues related to cybercrime. Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre scheme was sanctioned on 5th October 2018[282] to deal with cybercrime which require a coordinated efforts amongst different stakeholders and Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre work deal with cybercrime in the country in a coordinated and effective manner.

Objectives of Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre

- To serve as a central unit for monitoring and addressing Cybercrime within the nation.
- To enhance efforts to combat Cybercrime especially targeting women and children.
- To simplify the process for reporting Cybercrime-related incidents and analyzing trends and patterns in Cybercrime.
- Function as an early warning mechanism for Law Enforcement Agencies to facilitate proactive measures in Cybercrime prevention and detection.
- Promote public awareness regarding the prevention of Cybercrime.

Support States and Union Territories in developing the skills of Police Officers, Public Prosecutors, and Judicial Officers in areas such as cyber forensics, investigation and cyber criminology. [283]

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[275] https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/1999/1/A2000-21%20%281%29.pdf

[276] https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2611827

[277] https://cybersecurityventures.com/cybercrime-to-cost-the-world-9-trillion-annually-in-2024/

[278] https://i4c.mha.gov.in/

[279] in May 2024

[280] https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/here-is-how-much-indians-lost-to-cyber-frauds-between-jan-and-apr-of-2024-124052700151_1.html

[281] https://explodingtopics.com/blog/countries-internet-users

[282] was inaugurated in 2020 in New Delhi by Amit Shah, the Home Minister of India Cybercrime https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1599067

[283] https://i4c.mha.gov.in/about.aspx#:~:text=Objectives%20of%20I4C&text=To%20strengthen%20the%20fight%20against,proactive%20Cybercrime%20prevention%20and%20detection.

Components of Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre

There are seven components of Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre, they are,

a) National Cyber Crime Threat Analytics Unit

b) National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal

c) National Cyber Crime Training Centre

d) Cyber Crime Ecosystem Management Unit

e) National Cyber Crime Research and Innovation Centre

f) National Cyber Crime Forensic Laboratory Ecosystem

g) Platform for Joint Cyber Crime Investigation Team[284]

Role of Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre

The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre play an important role in safeguarding Indian cyberspace. It facilities coordination with various law enforcement agencies to tackle cybercrime effectively. It facilitates coordination among various law enforcement agencies, state police, and central agencies to tackle cybercrime effectively. It enhances the capabilities of law enforcement and judicial agencies through training, resources, and knowledge sharing.

The role of Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre in promoting awareness among citizens about cyber threats and safe online practices to help prevent cybercrime. It play role in collecting and analyzing data related to cybercrime to identify trends, threats, and patterns, which can aid in proactive measures. It assists in the formulation of policies and strategies for cybercrime prevention and response. It provides support for rapid response to significant cyber incidents and facilitating a coordinated approach to crisis management.

Conclusion

The efforts of Government of India is appreciable who have taken cybercrime seriously and taking all possible measures to curb the menace of cybercrime. The establishment of the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre is one an important step in establishment for safe cyberspace for citizens. The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre was established to enhance the country's capabilities in combating cybercrime. Since its inception, it is severing as a central hub for addressing various types of cybercrimes, including online fraud, data breaches, and social media-related crimes. The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre aims to create a safer cyber environment in India by implementing a structured approach to cybercrime prevention, investigation, and response.

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[284] https://i4c.mha.gov.in/about.aspx