

Cyber-Crime: A Study of Gurugram and Rohtak Districts

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Abstract –

The advancements in the field of technology has not evolved in a day but there is no doubt that it has evolved with a lightning speed in last few decades and this advancement has given rise to the Cyber Space. Cyber Space is an infinite phenomenon, which has no end roots, and the inclusion of the term space with the cyber itself shows that it is same as outer space, which has no limits. There can no hesitation that the cyber space has become a pivotal or central point on which every person is connected in some way. All the governments of the world, companies, industries, enterprises etc are connected with the cyberspace and in words; cyber space is connected with the abovementioned. The reason for this increasing domain of cyberspace could be the dependence of the public on the technology or the ease of doing all the chores of the daily life whether is domestic or commercial. This article tries to impart some knowledge of the cyber Space.

Keywords: Computer Network, Cyber Space, Cyber-Crime, Digital, Digital Technology, Domain, Hacking.

Introduction

In today's world an individual need not to interact or exchange his ideas personally. If he wants to share any information or wants to conduct any discussion, this global network will provide him the platform where without any physical contact he will be able to do all the above-mentioned. A conventional name is given to the internet for this global digital technology, which is cyberspace. This term refers to a world that is very different from the world we live in. This online world provides an opportunity to forget every day is a reality and one can hide behind a fake identity. This technology allows us to interact with anyone anywhere in the world. One need not to take permission to talk to anyone and can express his opinion without any restriction. If I conclude the agenda of these digital platforms then I find that this technology has vanished the gaps between countries, nations, persons and brought the whole world together as one. There are no barriers, boundaries hair; a person sitting in one corner of the globe can communicate the person sitting a thousand miles apart with just a click.

Meaning and definition

The idea of bringing the whole world together reminds me of one of the most famous phrases from Maha Upanishad. The Shloka is a Sanskrit transcript, which sees, says-

अयंनिज : परोवेतिगणनालघुचेत्साम।

उदारचरितानातुवासुदेवकूटुंबकम्॥

In English translation, it means that,

This is mine, that is his, says the small-minded,

The wise believe that the entire world is a family.

Cyber-space has undoubtedly tied the whole world into one thread but as if each coin has two faces, cyberspace has also eight advantages as well as disadvantages. This digital technology has expanded our options in each sphere of life whether it is a general communication, education, business, or sharing innovative ideas. Earlier there were only three modes of communication that is personally meet in person, talking over the phone, or sending your message via post but the digital world has served us a humongous amount of options from WhatsApp audio or video calls to Skype or FaceTime, there is no count. The invention of cyberspace has made our life very comfortable and easy but we must not to forget that this comfort and ease have made us dependent on this technology and we are totally dominated by computer networks. The technology which should be a boon for the human race is now converting into a bane as it makes humans not only lazy but stick them to the screens which ultimately takes them away from reality and they get lost in the virtual world. Together with this, there are a lot of areas where this digital technology has proved more disadvantageous rather than advantageous and the worst part of cyber technology can be seen in wars when terrorists take advantage of this technology. There is no doubt that a single wrong click can destroy the whole world in a few seconds. This scenario was best described in the movie "sneaker "as quoted in by Farooq Ahmed in his article -

“The world is not run by weapons anymore or energy or money, it is run by ones and zeros -little bits of data. It is all electrons. There is a war out a world war. It is not about who has the most bullets. It is about who controls the information. What we see and hear, how we work, what we see, it is all about information.”

Cyber criminals are the invisible thieves who are very clever and they do not require any gun or knife to steal your money. Internet is their only weapon. All the crimes which take place on the internet or which use the internet as a medium are categorized as cyber-crimes. A specific number cannot be given to such crimes. Cyber-crimes include a plethora of illegal activities, which cannot be put into figures. In the word, "cyber-crime" Is given as a common name for all

those activities which are illegally done on the internet. Most emerging cyber-crimes include cyber terrorism, cyberstalking, email spoofing, cyber pornography, cyber defamation etc.

There is no doubt that technology has changed our lives completely. We have smart gadgets for every purpose, from smartwatches to smart mobile phones or smart television. Within a decade, our simple lifestyle has changed into a smart lifestyle. However, our lifestyle has become smart our dependence on this technology is making us dumber and stupid. Whenever we download or install any application or software, we just click on each agreement policy without even going through it or reading it carefully. Through our mobile phone is smart but we became stupid. Today every individual possesses a smartphone with having a camera in it but this camera becomes the third eye for hackers because of our mistakes and without our knowledge, our private life becomes data for hackers from which we cannot hide or protect ourselves. Another author kirti mentions that the cyber-space has infinite provisions and solutions of the evolving technologies. The usage of computers has become quite popular in this era of cyberspace and together with the popularity of computers; technology has grown to an extent. Now people are familiar with the term cyberspace. The fruition of digital technology gave rise to cyber-space wherein equal opportunity is provided by the internet in order to give access uncensored information or data. As the internet is gender blind it does not differentiate between males and females and both genders have equal opportunity to use it, as a result, there is a huge increase in the number of internet users, which is commonly called netizens. This increased number of netizens resulted in cyber-crimes at both the national and international levels. What makes "cybercrime" different from the term "crime" is the usage of computer technology. The general meaning of the term "crime" is any legal wrong that is followed by criminal proceedings that may result in punishment. When the legal wrong is performed by the offender via computer or internet either as a tool or as the target or even both it becomes a cyber-crime. There is no precise definition of cybercrime. Even the IT act 2000 failed to give a proper definition for the term. The definition which suits the term cybercrime is that any crime which involves computer either as an object of the crime like hacking, spamming or phishing or which uses computer as a tool to commit the crime like child pornography, hate crimes etc. Unlike conventional crimes, a selected group of criminals who have technical knowledge of the cyber space commits these crimes. In comparison to conventional crimes, these crimes are quite new as they came into existence only as long as computers existed, this is the main reason why we have failed to combat this menace. As our society as well as the world was not prepared for these newly formed crimes. Earlier there were no specific laws for these crimes. The world first computer specific law was enacted by the German a state of Hesse in the form of a data protection act, 1970.

In India, it was in the year 2000 when the Parliament passed the information technology act on 17 October 2000. IT act 2000 is considered to be an exhaustive law to deal with cybercrimes whether it is in the field of E banking, e-commerce, a government, E governance the act not only covers the cases related to computer technology but also mentioned about the penalties and punishments for cybercrimes. The following a report of ASSOCHAM Mahindra SSG report,

January 2015 shows how rapidly the crime cases are increasing in India, making it among the top countries facing cybercrime menace.

The total number of cybercrime cases in India touched the figure of 3,00,000 in 2015 which is now almost doubled in 2020. Such a humongous rise in the cases has created havoc in security establishment and social fabric as well as in the financial space. Secretary General of ASSOCHAM, Mr D. S. Rawat has showed his concern towards the origin of cybercrimes. He told that the origin of these crimes is widely based in China, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Algeria.

Similarly, the data collected by NCRB stated that in 2018, 28,248 cases were registered, which got almost double in 2019 and 44,546 cases of cyber-crimes were registered in that year. A futuristic dream of making India a digital country has become a soft target among cyber offenders as the country has recorded a huge increase of 63.5% in cyber cases in 2019.

Both the reports pointed out that in the maximum cases of cyber-crime the offenders were from 18 to 30 age group.

The NCRB's data stated that highest number of cyber-crimes cases were registered in Karnataka (12,020) followed by Uttar Pradesh where the cases over 11,416 than Maharashtra (4,967), Telangana(2691) and Assam(2231). Among the union territories, Delhi alone accounted for 78% of cybercrime cases. In metropolitan cities approximately 81.9% rise has been reported with a total number of 18,372 cases registered out of which 13,814 cases alone were related to computer offences registered under sec.66 of IT act, 2000.

If local districts of Haryana, specifically if Gurugram and Rohtak or talked about then according to the data with RTI a total of 363 cases were registered under IT act from the year 2018 to 2020 alone in Gurugram whereas in Rohtak the IT act cases were of 50 in these years. However, the matter of concern is that though the IT cases were less but the cybercrime cases in Rohtak were 129 in the year 2018, which got more than double in 2019, a total number of 338 cyber cases, were registered that year which increased to 396 in 2020.

These numbers are not stopping rather they are increasing at an alarming rate.

At below

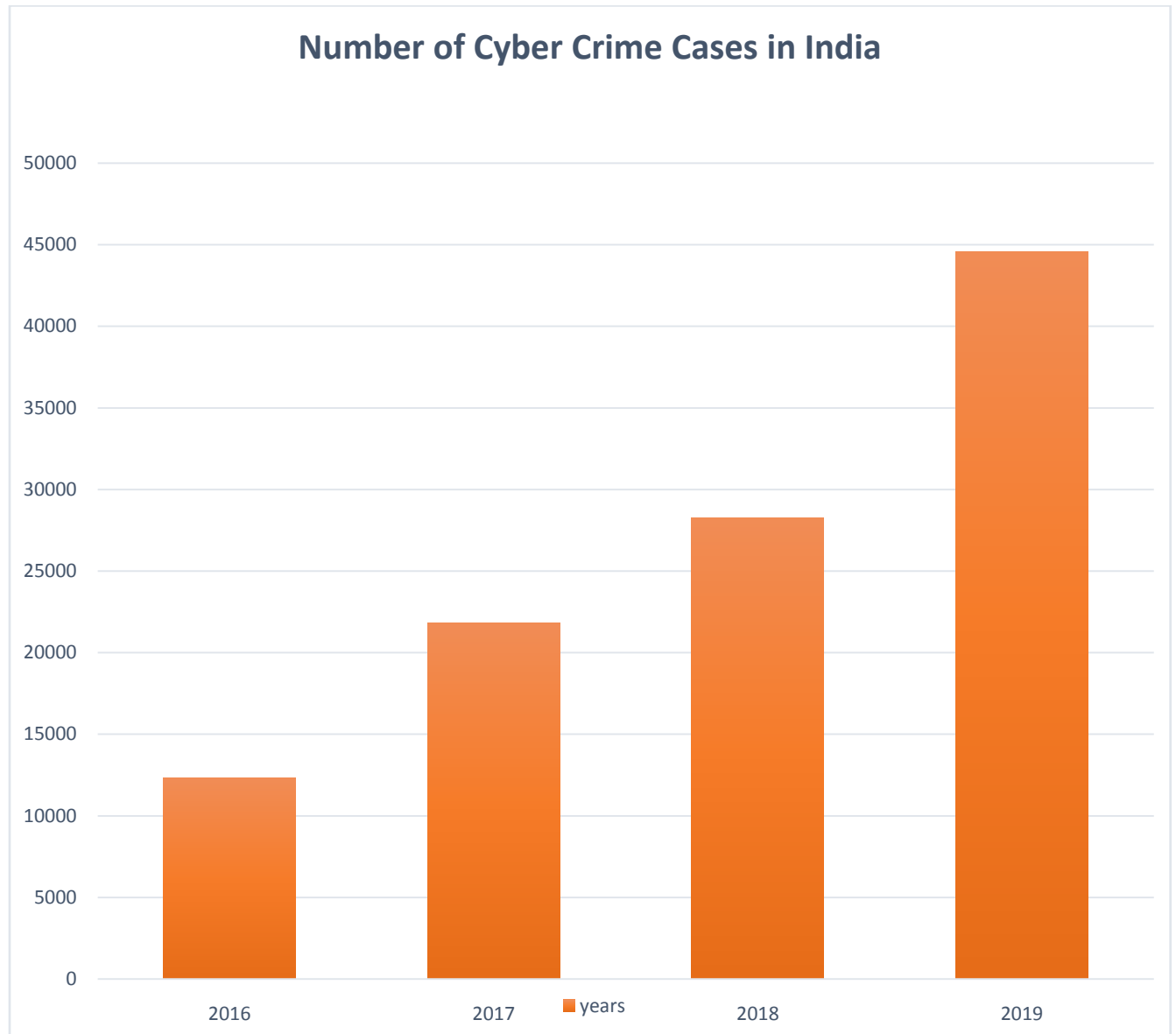
Years No. of Cases Registered for Cyber Crime

2016 12317

2017 21796

2018 28248

2019 44546



Therefore, if we look at the trend of cyber-crime-data, we can clearly see that the cyber-crime is increasing day by day with alarming rates, which are more than 60% increase every year. This is not a good news for the cyber space. With more entrants in the cyber space, the risk of becoming the victim of cyber-crime also increases.

It must be taken into consideration that the above-mentioned data is only of those cases, which are registered with the police. According to a recent study, cyber-crimes are under reported. According to a study on child safety on children and adolescents it was found that in the year 2020, 9.2% of every 630 adolescents in Delhi and NCR faced online harassment or cyber bullying but half of them (4.6%) never reported about it to the cyber cell. Peer pressure is the one

of the main reasons that causes cyber bullying. Another report by 'online study and internet addiction' shows that the youth spends more hours on internet as compared to the older generation. Hence, they are more prone to cyber bullying. Children between 13 to 18 years are bullied more. The report stated that one in every four adult cents have reported about seeing modified image or video of themselves but half of them never reported about it. Most of the teenagers are even unaware of the terms they are required to follow while using internet and some of them deliberately ignore the restrictions off the internet. A recent India on internet report, 2019 stated that every two among three internet users are from the age of 12 to 29 years making 66% population of India. it is quite shocking that under IT act among all the cyber offences, 60% alone related to hacking but only 40% of the hackers got arrested. In hacking cases, most of the complaints were registered in Karnataka, making it the top state in hacking cases. In that study, Mumbai was the only big state where no hacking cases were registered. Whereas rural areas and small towns accounted 455% of all the hacking cases. After the hacking cases, obscene publications cover a large part of IT act, according to the data, obscene publications cover 28% of all the cyber-crimes but only in 61% cases arrest could be made. It shows the administrations flaw that how these cyber offenders keep on committing the crimes and how easily they hide behind the computer screens without any fear of being caught. Their main motive is either sexual harassment or some kind of economic fraud. In 40% of the cybercrime cases, it was found that the motive was the same. Even the FBI report on Internet crimes 2019 it was stated that the most common mode of cybercrime is fraud mails, text messages and fake web Sites. According to the report, India is at third position in the whole world for the number of cybercrime cases. From the recent past cloning of ATM cards, phishing attacks of online banking accounts are common occurrences.

Conclusion

The cyberspace has provided the concept of Digital India, which introduced to make India a cashless country and bring it in the superpowers but together with this concept, the usage of mobile smart phones has increased for online financial transactions that increases the chances of online frauds. This is the high time to take concrete actions against the offenders and we should be more vigilant towards cyberspace. One must not forget that a wrong click can destroy someone's life within seconds. We must avoid using cards when the network is not properly secured. If the card is a misplaced or lost, get it cancelled immediately. Never give any information seeking your credit card details to anyone over the phone. Always read carefully the agreement details before downloading or installing any application in the mobile phone. Never forget that your negligence can lead the hacker enter your mobile phone and all your personal details will be compromised if a proper vigilance is not taken care off.

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