

Cyber Security Must Be An International Issue



By
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Cyber Security has been for long considered to be a National Policy matter. However, the recent [E-Surveillance Disclosures](#) have forced the Governments around the world to consider Cyber Security Mandates differently. [Self Defence and Privacy Protection Measures](#) have been devised to counter E-Surveillance and Illegal Eavesdropping that are increasing day by day.

This fact has been aptly described by the document [Lawful Interception: A Mounting Challenge for Service Providers and Government](#) (PDF) by Frost & Sullivan. Allegations of [E-Surveillance and Eavesdropping through Utah Data Center](#) have also surfaced in the past though the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) denied any such activities.

Even our own Technology related Trends have depicted that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) related Legal Issues must be redressed at National and International Levels. The [Cyber Law Trends and Developments of India 2013](#) (PDF), [Cyber Security Trends and Developments in India 2013](#) (PDF) and [Cyber Forensics Trends and Developments in India 2013](#) (PDF) reiterate this Regulatory need at both Indian and International Levels.

The [Conflict of Laws in Cyberspace](#) has further aggravated the problem of Cyber Security Cooperation at International Level. India is facing lack of Legal Cooperation from E-Mail Service providers of U.S. This force India to formulate a dedicated [E-Mail Policy](#) so that dependence upon G-Mail, Yahoo, Hotmail, etc can be reduced for Governmental functions. In fact, these E-Mail Services are actually [Abetting and Encouraging](#) commission of Cyber Crimes in India and other parts of the World.

Indian Government also faced helplessness when the Foreign Companies like Google, Facebook, etc not only failed to comply with Indian Laws but even the [U.S. Blocked India's MLAT Attempt to make Google, Facebook, etc Comply with Indian Laws](#). India negotiated this aspect with U.S. and finally an [Indo-American Alert, Watch and Warn](#)

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[Network](#) for Real Time Information Sharing in Cyber Crime Cases was constituted. Though its efficacy is still to be seen yet this is a good step in the right direction.

The threats of Cyber Crimes and Cyber Security attacks are alarming these days. As more and more Critical Infrastructure is connected to ICT, a need has been felt to protect [Critical ICT Infrastructures](#) (PDF) all over the World.

In a typical Cyber Attack by an Enemy State, the Critical Infrastructure is the first choice. Estonia witnessed this truth in the past. Further, in cases of [Cyber Warfare](#), [Cyber Espionage](#) and [Cyber Terrorism](#), Critical Infrastructure is the chief target of Cyber Attack.

It is surprising that despite the seriousness of the issue we have no [International Cyber Law Treaty](#) and [International Cyber Security Treaty](#). International Organisations and Institutions have still [not taken](#) Cyber Crimes and Cyber Security very seriously. Even [Human Rights Protection in Cyberspace](#) has not been taken by seriously by all concerned. Organisations like United Nations, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), etc have also not shown much interest in this regard in the past. Now these Organisations have taken notice of the nuisances of Cyberspace and they are gradually shifting their attentions to Cyber Crimes and Cyber Attacks.

International Organisations dealing with Human Rights, Cyber Law and Cyber Security must start thinking in this direction as issues like Cyber Warfare, Cyber Terrorism, Cyber Espionage, Cyber Crimes, E-Surveillance, Unlawful Interceptions, etc are “Transnational” in nature.

If different Countries would have different laws for these issues, it would be very difficult to truly enforce protective provisions against these menaces at National and International levels. It is high time for UN to seriously consider issues like International Cyber Law Treaty, International Cyber Security Treaty and Protection of Human Rights in Cyberspace.