# Move to strengthen net security

# Increasing cyber crimes alarm indian authorities

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Alarmed at the increasing incidence of cyber crimes, Indian authorities and security agencies are now working on a plan to provide net security and develop mechanism that could derail cyber crimes and educate people on the menace that has hit the limelight. The recent incidence involving two college students indulging in a sexual act that was video graphed on a mobile phone and then found its way in the capital city through MMS has alarmed the authorities. Several other such cases have also been reported. Although the police had arrested the culprit who is reported to have made huge amount of money through MMS, the nature of the crime had out the Indian authorities on tenterhooks. "This is a new invoation,. We have to look at various angles including legal criminal aspects to put a curb on the proliferation of such cyber crimes" a senior official said The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry is organising a two day meeting next month on net security where it has invited leading professional from this field in the US, one including a senior executive from the Microsoft. "We are trying to develop a system that could put a check on such activities. Also, we will involve government agencies in this exercise besides the captains in the software industry" said FICCI senior Executive Tabrez Ahmad. Tabrez said that as new technology are ushering in

there is a need to have new look towards their use so that check and counter checks could be made. "What we aim is to strengthen the net security and suggest provision that could be incorporated into the cyber laws". While admitting that the MMS incidence had woken the authorities, Tabrez said that it was an appropriate time that we discuss this potential topic for future. "We can really end up in a criminal, mess if prompt actions were not taken. Stressing that it was essential that a



broad outline is prepared to control the growth of cyber crimes, Tabrez said he would in touch with the authorities in the Gulf region on the issue. "India and the Gulf countries can share their experience on this score and come to some sort of an understanding" Tabrez said. Statistically, a total of 1,310 people were arrested in the country for cyber crime under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) out of which 551 belonged to Gujarat, followed by 390 from Andhra Pradesh and 160 from Uttar Pradesh, say crime statistics for the year 2002. Gujarat alone accounted for 96 cyber crimes, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). The bureau released the figures for 2002. A profile of cyber criminals reveals that 27

percent arrested were in the age group of 18-30 while 54 percent were in the 30-45 age group. Interestingly, 32 other offenders were aged 60 years. The proliferation of cyber crime in the country has prompted the NCRB for the first time to chronicle the various cases registered in the country. Most of the cases registered under IPC pertained to fake electronic evidence, forgery, tampering and cyber counterfeiting. Likewise, 70 cases were registered under the IT Act. Of this, nearly half of the cases pertained to cyber pornography and 38 people were arrested from Maharashtra, Karnataka and Orissa. Hacking, tampering source documents and causing damage to computer resources also figured in cases registered under the IT Act. Tamil Nadu was the only state that reported a case relating to digital signature fraud. Of 65 people arrested under the IT Act, most were from Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. Again, 71 percent of the offenders were in the 18-30 age bracket while Punjab reported the only offender below 18 years. Analysing the motives behind the offenders, the NCRB noted that most indulged in this crime for monetary gain and a small percentage for settling scores and harassment (Inputs from IANS)