

Abstract 1:

Gap Analysis of the Cyber Security System and modeling a PPP framework for securing critical information infrastructure

This research work is a comprehensive study of current scenario of cyber crimes in India. Study is done on three fronts: firstly, the modes of cyber-attacks, the vulnerable areas, consequences of these attacks and profiles of cyber criminals; secondly, preventive measures taken by Government, private agencies or NGOs, awareness among public about these issues, solution to technical/ non-technical problems faced by government agencies like CDAC and CERT-In. Thirdly, comparative analysis of Indian and International laws on cyber terrorism, cyber censorship, pornography and jurisdictional issues harmonizing national and international legal regime.

Research methodology included literature review, interviews of subject experts and surveys among Indian internet users. By these means, the data collected was used to do gap analysis in the system and recommendations were made focusing on mechanisms of awareness generation among internet users, development of a cyber-security workforce in India, including development of decentralized teams.

The study suggests introduction of mandatory certification system, called 'Website Security Certification System' for E-commerce websites, monitoring of ISP's to avoid misuse of internet connections on the basis of fake identities and designing of contracts with website hosts to set-up their servers within India, 'In-service' training for cyber-security professionals, to make them aware of latest threats in cyberspace. The paper also aims at studying the framework for securing critical information infrastructure achieving the same through a PPP model.

Abstract 2:

Modeling the State's Right to Services Act, and impact assessment study of RTS-Act in Punjab

The realization of democratic ethos that requires accountability, transparency and equitability in the delivery of public services have come due to the emphasis on rights. In keeping with this ethos, Government of Punjab introduced "Right to Service Act" on October 20, 2011. The Acts are significant as they place the onus of delivery on the service provider with penalties for delays in service provision. The Act provides right to obtain specified services within the stipulated time frame through a mechanism of initial application / first appeal, second appeal and appeal to Right to Service Commission. On completion of two years of the Act, the government took a concerted effort to review in general the perception of the public and service providers about the Act.

This paper aims at recording the success of the Act and modeling it for its extension in other states. The study also conducts a critical and comparative analysis of the act. A total of 69 services have been covered under the Punjab Right to Service Act, 2011. For preliminary research, three districts of Punjab i.e. Kapurthala, Mohali and Mukstar Sahib were chosen as sample sets. All the three service providing centers i.e. Suvidha, Saanj and Fard Kendra were included in the survey to study the impact on general public. A total of 2155 people were surveyed across the three districts, out of which 1517 were beneficiaries, 558 were non-beneficiaries and 80 were service providers. Impact assessment was carried out to probe further, identify last mile challenges and suggest the way forward on the basis of on ground experience gathered during the study.

Abstract 3:

Evolving a PPP model of investment in Infrastructure: Roadblocks and way ahead

Infrastructure is one of the most important sectors of the Indian Economy, adequate investment in its development is a prerequisite for higher growth. Private funding of infrastructure has become a mainstay of the government's policy towards infrastructural development. Around 48% of 12th Five year plan spend on infrastructure is envisaged to come from the private sector. In this respect PPP has become a very important tool for meeting India's investment needs that can be translated into a win-win situation for all. Several initiatives such as setting up of IIFCL, viability gap funding etc have helped in attracting private sector investment in the infrastructure projects.

It is argued that while the governing laws have several desirable and efficiency enhancing features, the enforcement of these laws has been far from satisfactory. Unless the governance issues like collection of user charges, institutional capacity etc are addressed mobilization of adequate resources may remain to be a major roadblock.

This paper aims at conducting an economic analysis of the PPP contracts and relevant laws to determine their efficiency properties and scrutinize the current PPP scenario. Case Studies have been done in order to carry out the analysis, in the aviation sector (Delhi Airport) and highway sector (DND Flyway). Loopholes have been identified in these projects, and an in depth study has been made to increase the efficiency of this model.