

COMBATTING CYBERCRIME IN SPIRITUAL WAY

By Ashim Kumar Mukherjee

1. Introduction:

Different types of cybercrimes are being reported daily in newspapers and news-channels. Individuals are falling victim, losing hard earned money, suffering from mental stress, agony, psychological breakdown etc. Recently, suicide by elderly couples because of continuous threat of digital arrest has also been reported in some leading dailies. Extent of the menace posed by Cybercrime in India can be guessed from following two points included in the reply given by Honourable Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Bandi Sanjay Kumar to a question related to Digital Arrest in the Lok Sabha:

- Till 15.11.2024, more than 6.69 lakhs SIM cards and 1,32,000 IMEIs as reported by Police authorities have been blocked by Government of India.
- The 'Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System', under I4C, has been launched in year 2021 for immediate reporting of financial frauds and to stop siphoning off funds by the fraudsters. So far, financial amount of more than Rs. 3431 Crore has been saved in more than 9.94 lakh complaints.^[1]

Government of India, all State Governments, all UTs and Telecom Service Providers have taken and continued to take several steps to curb the Cybercrimes.

The believe that familiarity of Socio-technical arrangement with which some persons or group persons are familiar with does not automatically mean that everyone else is also familiar and aware of such socio-technical arrangements prevailing in the society. Cybercrimes are not happening in isolation, rather these are occurring in the intersection of society, technology and everyday life.

Cause and effect give rise to events. When cause and condition come together then a result follows. Thoughts create conditions through actions and deeds. This article deliberates human aspects of opportunities of victimization in light of causes and conditions and underlying thoughts. This article attempts to show a path in the realms of spirituality to build up a shield to thwart chances of individual victimhood arising out of cybercrime.

2. What is meant by Cybercrime?

National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal of Ministry of Home Affairs of Government of India has defined cybercrime as "Any unlawful act where computer or communication device or computer network is used to commit or facilitate the commission of crime".^[2] Following crimes have been listed as Cybercrimes.

TABLE-1

Sl. No.	Cybercrime	Indicative explanation
1.	Child Pornography/ Child sexually abusive material (CSAM)	Child sexually abusive material (CSAM) refers to material containing sexual image in any form, of a child who is abused or sexually exploited. Section 67 (B) of IT Act states that “it is punishable for publishing or transmitting of material depicting children in sexually explicit act, etc. in electronic form.
2.	Cyber Bullying	A form of harassment or bullying inflicted through the use of electronic or communication devices such as computer, mobile phone, laptop, etc.
3.	Cyber stalking	Cyber stalking is the use of electronic communication by a person to follow a person, or attempts to contact a person to foster personal interaction repeatedly despite a clear indication of disinterest by such person; or monitors the internet, email or any other form of electronic communication commits the offence of stalking.
4.	Cyber Grooming	Cyber Grooming is when a person builds an online relationship with a young person and tricks or pressures him/ her into doing sexual act.
5.	Online Job Fraud	Online Job Fraud is an attempt to defraud people who are in need of employment by giving them a false hope/ promise of better employment with higher wages.
6.	Online Sextortion	Online Sextortion occurs when someone threatens to distribute private and sensitive material using an electronic medium if he/ she doesn't provide images of a sexual nature, sexual favours, or money.
7.	Vishing	Vishing is an attempt where fraudsters try to seek personal information like Customer ID, Net Banking password, ATM PIN, OTP, Card expiry date, CVV etc. through a phone call.
8.	Sexting	Sexting is an act of sending sexually explicit digital images, videos, text messages, or emails, usually by cell phone.

Sl. No.	Cybercrime	Indicative explanation
9.	Smishing	Smishing is a type of fraud that uses mobile phone text messages to lure victims into calling back on a fraudulent phone number, visiting fraudulent websites or downloading malicious content via phone or web.
10.	SIM Swap Scam	SIM Swap Scam occurs when fraudsters manage to get a new SIM card issued against a registered mobile number fraudulently through the mobile service provider. With the help of this new SIM card, they get One Time Password (OTP) and alerts, required for making financial transactions through victim's bank account. Getting a new SIM card against a registered mobile number fraudulently is known as SIM Swap.
11.	Debit/Credit Card Fraud	Credit card (or debit card) fraud involves an unauthorized use of another's credit or debit card information for the purpose of purchases or withdrawing funds from it.
12.	Impersonation and Identity Theft	Impersonation and identity theft is an act of fraudulently or dishonestly making use of the electronic signature, password or any other unique identification feature of any other person.
13.	Phishing	Phishing is a type of fraud that involves stealing personal information such as Customer ID, IPIN, Credit/Debit Card number, Card expiry date, CVV number, etc. through emails that appear to be from a legitimate source.
14.	Spamming	Spamming occurs when someone receives an unsolicited commercial messages sent via email, SMS, MMS and any other similar electronic messaging media. They may try to persuade recipient to buy a product or service, or visit a website where he can make purchases; or they may attempt to trick him/ her into divulging bank account or credit card details.
15.	Ransomware	Ransomware is a type of computer malware that encrypts the files, storage media on communication devices like desktops, Laptops, Mobile phones etc., holding data/information as a hostage. The victim is

Sl. No.	Cybercrime	Indicative explanation
		asked to pay the demanded ransom to get his device decrypts.
16.	Virus, Worms & Trojans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Virus is a program written to enter to your computer and damage/alter your files/data and replicate themselves. • Worms are malicious programs that make copies of themselves again and again on the local drive, network shares, etc. • A Trojan horse is not a virus. It is a destructive program that looks as a genuine application. Unlike viruses, Trojan horses do not replicate themselves but they can be just as destructive. Trojans open a backdoor entry to your computer which gives malicious users/programs access to your system, allowing confidential and personal information to be theft.
17.	Data Breach	A data breach is an incident in which information is accessed without authorization.
18.	Denial Of Services /Distributed DoS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denial of Services (DoS) attack is an attack intended for denying access to computer resource without permission of the owner or any other person who is in-charge of a computer, computer system or computer network. • A Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack is an attempt to make an online service unavailable by overwhelming it with traffic from multiple sources.
19.	Website Defacement	Website Defacement is an attack intended to change visual appearance of a website and/ or make it dysfunctional. The attacker may post indecent, hostile and obscene images, messages, videos, etc.
20.	Cyber-Squatting	Cyber-Squatting is an act of registering, trafficking in, or using a domain name with an intent to profit from the goodwill of a trademark belonging to someone else.

Sl. No.	Cybercrime	Indicative explanation
21.	Pharming	Pharming is cyber-attack aiming to redirect a website's traffic to another, bogus website.
22.	Cryptojacking	Cryptojacking is the unauthorized use of computing resources to mine cryptocurrencies.
23.	Online Drug Trafficking	Online Drug Trafficking is a crime of selling, transporting, or illegally importing unlawful controlled substances, such as heroin, cocaine, marijuana, or other illegal drugs using electronic means.
24.	Espionage	Espionage is the act or practice of obtaining data and information without the permission and knowledge of the owner.
Source: National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal of Ministry of Home Affairs of Government of India, https://cybercrime.gov.in/webform/crimecatdes.aspx accessed on 06-April-2025.		

Cybercrime affects companies, different entities and individuals. This article is related to individual victimization only.

3. Cybercrime, Technology and Humans:

In the incidents of Cybercrimes, a complicated technology functions as interface between the criminal and the victim. Kranzberg's First Law of Technology states: 'Technology is neither good nor bad; nor is it neutral'. People embracing technology products like mobile etc. should therefore be aware that such electronic gadgets have also got the potential of harming themselves.

Kranzberg's Third Law of Technology states – 'Technology comes in packages, big and small.' A conversation between two persons involves two mobile phones, mobile towers, satellite (may be more than one), different electronic processors, software, Apps, electric supply etc. Mobile phones, computers on internet and similar devices function through a network of systems. A system is a coherent structure consisting interconnected and interacting components or subsystems producing a desired output. In a network of systems, output of a system becomes input for other. As such a great deal of systems and equipment and varieties of technologies are involved in cyber based transactions. All internet communications occur in Cyberspace. In a presentation on Cybersecurity, Dr. V. K. Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog has defined Cyberspace as – "A global domain within the information environment consisting of the interdependent network of information technology

infrastructures, including the Internet, telecommunications networks, computer systems, and embedded processors and controllers.” This presentation further mentioned – “Cyberspace has inherent vulnerabilities that cannot be removed” and “Innumerable entry points to internet.”^[3] Thus, any communication over internet, even if happening between two persons, becomes global and exposed to threats.

Kranzberg’s Fifth Law of Technology states – ‘All history is relevant, but the history of technology is the most relevant.’ Each of the above Cybercrimes involve some transactions and incidents, which again can be broken up in different events. Going back to pre-computer age of banking system for withdrawal of money, the account holder was to go to bank, fill and sign a withdrawal form, submitted to the teller counter along with the passbook. The person in the teller counter would issue a token and the account holder would wait with that token, till he or she was called. The person in the teller counter would check balance in the ledger and would send the form & the passbook to another officer along with the ledger for signature verification of the account holder, the ledger then would go to approval authority who after checking ledger balance, and signature of other two officers would approve the withdrawal, the ledger would go back to ledger section, the withdrawal form with the passbook to the teller counter. Teller then would call the account holder, would take the token, get the same tallied with Teller’s record, count the currency notes and handover the amount to the account holder along with the passbook. When money is withdrawn from ATM or any transaction is done over internet, the process is same. Only the events in the processes are codified, which in turn jumbled together and digitalized and contained in Apps. Everything has become a number game. Each and every person involved in internet-based transactions or incidents has got his/her personal identity in the continuum of past, which the Cyberfraudsters want to breach. To stay in the present, and to live in the future, one should know and be aware of history of technology pertinent to his/her sphere of work or transactions. Social media is a recent development, Facebook came in 2004, WhatsApp launched in India in 2009. Presently, there are several social media platforms like Telegram, Twitter, Instagram, Reddit etc. Billions of bytes are exchanged over the social media.

Kranzberg’s Sixth Law of Technology states – ‘Technology is a very human activity – and so is the history of technology.’ This law connects technology with human. It is always a human which makes a technology-product to function. Use and abuse of technology, both are in the hands of humans. This aspect needs a little elaboration.

4. Interaction of technology and humans:

Three elements are involved in Cybercrimes – fraudster, victim and computers or mobile phones; first two are humans, that is, sentient beings, and third one is electronic equipment, that is, insentient things. Nervous system of human beings, neurons, synapses – together with other sensory systems controls psychic and physical activities of human beings. Nervous system constitutes ‘a computer like system’ which is analogous to a computer or a smartphone. This analogy makes a computer or a mobile device very dear to humans.

Cyberspace mentioned above interacts through Cybernetics. Cybernetics is the framework providing dynamicity to the elements of Cyberspace and thus both are inseparably intertwined. Cybersecurity is the product of such intertwining. Norbert Wiener, an American Scientist has defined Cybernetics as follows:

“We have decided to call the entire field of control and communication theory, whether in the machine or in the animal, by the name Cybernetics, which we form from the Greek *Χυβερνήτης* or steersman. In choosing this term, we wish to recognize that the first significant paper on feedback mechanisms is an article on governors, which was published by Clerk Maxwell in 1868, and that governor is derived from Latin corruption of *Χυβερνήτης*. We also wish to refer to the fact that the steering engines of a ship are indeed one of the earliest and best-developed forms of feedback mechanisms.”^[4]

The word ‘cyber’ prefixing the above words is an adjective and relates to or involves with or characteristic of computer, computer networks like internet, cellular data, information technology and virtual reality. Thus, cyberspace is a space in virtual world, cybersecurity is the security system related to computers and computer networks. It must also be noted that mobile data is cellular data and is a type of internet connection, like that of *wi-fi* and Bluetooth connection is also a type of network defined as Personal Area Network or Wireless Personal Area Network.

Cybernetics relates human beings with computer and computer network, mobiles and cellular data, internet, all constituents of virtual reality and every other thing prefixed with the word ‘cyber’ when ‘ON’ mode or in action. A computer or a mobile lying idle or being used without any internet or Bluetooth connection shall not come under the purview of cybernetics because without any connection a device does not come under ‘information environment’. Cyberspace and cybernetics are not limited to Earth only. USA made NASA’s artificial satellite Voyager-1 launched in 1977 has moved out of our Solar system and is now moving in interstellar space at an approximate speed of 38,026.77 miles per hour relative to Sun. This artificial satellite is now at a distance of 15,457,855,500 miles (24877007002km) approximately, from Earth. This satellite is still communicating with space station at NASA; it is being controlled, monitored, data exchanged between NASA and the satellite although one way travel time for a signal from Earth to Voyager-1 is 23 hours 03 minutes.^[5]

All the above establishes human relationship with cyber related technologies as per Kranzberg’s Sixth Law of Technology and it also shows colossal extent to which an information at cyberspace can travel. Relationship of all these with Spirituality shall now be discussed.

5. Relationship between Human Beings, Cyber-Technology and Spirituality

In Srimad Bhagavad Gita, Lord Sri Krishna said to warrior Arjuna:

भूमिरापोऽनलो वायुः खं मनो बुद्धिरेव च । अहङ्कार इतीयं मे भिन्ना प्रकृतिरष्टधा ॥ 4॥
Srimad Bhagavad Gita 7:4
<i>bhumir-āpo 'nalo vāyuh kham mano buddhir eva cha, ahankāra itiyam me bhinnā prakṛtir aṣṭadhā.</i>
Earth, water, fire, air, space, mind, reason, and also egoism – these are the eightfold divisions of My nature .
अपरेयमितस्त्वन्यां प्रकृतिं विद्धि मे पराम् । जीवभूतां महाबाहो ययेदं धार्यते जगत् ॥ 5॥
Srimad Bhagavad Gita 7:5
<i>apareyam itas tvanyām prakṛtiṁ viddhi me parām, jīva-bhūtām mahā-bāho yayedaṁ dhāryate jagat</i>
O Mighty Armed! This is the inferior (described in the previous verse), Know My Higher Nature, the Higher – Para Prakriti, the life-element by which the universe is upheld.

These two verses of Srimad Bhagavat Gita establish relationship between sentient beings and insentient things. Here, sentient beings governed by mind, reason and ego constituted by insentient things, the prakriti or the matter – earth, water, fire, air, and space acquire dynamicity because of indwelling spirit (para-prakriti, the life element) sourced from ‘My Higher Nature’, that is, the ALMIGHTY.

TABLE-2

Elements		Tattva
Earth	क्षिति	Where one dwells
Water	अप	Which does not protect itself from its natural shape
Fire	अनल	Which causes a change, which brings out beauty, loveliness, digestive power
Air	वायुः	For want of which, a living being will die
Space	आकाश	Which covers something, vacant, where sound dwells
Source: SRI SRI RAMAKRISHNA KATHAMRITA – As I have Understood, Volume-1, written by the Author of this article (ISBN: 9798302736550), Page: 59 to 60.		

Human beings made of five elements are endowed with mind, senses and ego born out of life-force. Like gravitational force, electro-magnetic force, life-force is also a force which

permeates a material body. Some say it as consciousness, some say as SELF, some as soul, something other than the body but indwelling as spirit.

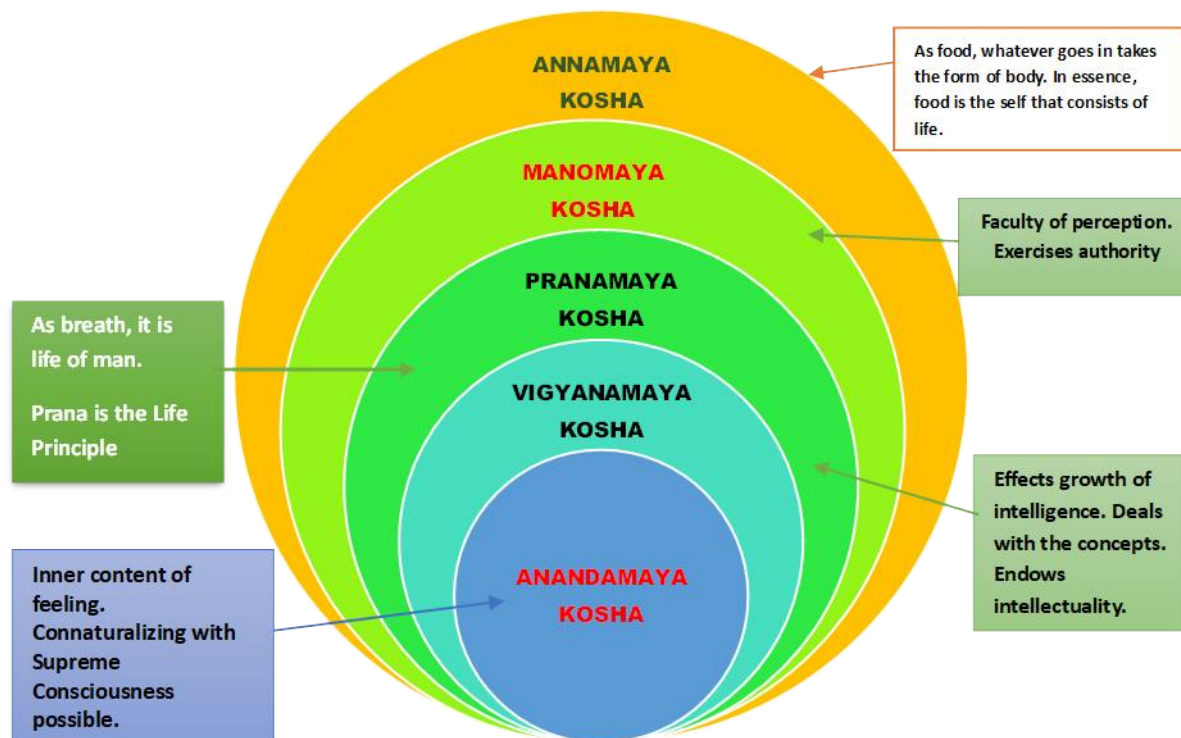
Space of the above mentioned five elements is the basic element. Its sense attribute is 'sound'. All other elements have come from 'space' element with different sense attributes as given below:

TABLE-3

Elements	Sense attributes
Akasha (Space)	Sound
Air	Sound + Touch
Fire	Sound + Touch + Sight
Water	Sound + Touch + Sight + Taste
Earth	Sound + Touch + Sight + Taste + Smell
Source: SRI SRI RAMAKRISHNA KATHAMRITA – As I have Understood, Volume-2, written by the Author of this article (ISBN: 9798303159419), Page: 171 to 172.	

Sense attributes mentioned in Table-3, above, are sensed through sense organs. The sense organs act as channels through which the world of stimuli reaches the mind. Commonality and sameness of space of five elements and space of cyberspace having sound (vibration) as its attribute enables the human mind to interact with the cyber world. Impulses received from domain of information environment are processed by the human-intellect and the resultant are fed back through IT infrastructures. By this way communications are exchanged between a human being of mundane world and unknown virtual personality of cyberworld. During these assimilative processes, human falsely identifies himself/herself as the only doer and actor. Remoteness and invisibility give rise to temporality, giving rise to complications.

According to Taittiriya Upanishad, human being is composed of five sheaths as given in Figure-1, below. In Brahmananda (Bliss of Brahman) Valli of this Upanishad, the great philosopher, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, in his commentary has said – “These verses indicate the five bodies or sheaths (*panca-kośas*) material, vital, mental, intellectual and spiritual. ----- In every order of things the lower is strengthened by its union with the higher. ----- When our knowledge is submissive to things, we get the hierarchical levels of being, matter, life, animal mind, human intelligence and divine bliss. They represent different degrees of abstraction and the sciences which deal with them, employ different principles and methods.”^[6] Presently humans are living in a conflictful, crisis-filled materialistic world. The environment is suppressive. Citizens within a geographical boundary are netizens of boundaryless globe.

FIGURE-1

Representational image of five sheaths (*panchakosha*) as in Brahmananda (Bliss of Brahman) Valli of Taittiriya Upanishad

In this environment, shield of reclusiveness gives vent to expressions of mind, at the same time sensualized virtual pleasures create tractions for the elusive mind. Temporality makes one blind for the consequential future. Man forgets their life.

Having said about human beings and cyber-technology, it is now time to relate these two with spirituality. As the word suggests Spirituality (आध्यात्मिकता) is related to spirit indwelling in individuals of this creation and also the spirit which permeates the cosmos. The humans can perceive greatness of spirit and its nature. This is what makes them different from animals. Swami Lokeshwarananda has defined Spirituality as – “Spirituality is the richness, acquired through years of struggle, which gives man a power, a dignity, which nothing else – no wealth, no scholarship, no office – can give.^[7] Rich and poor, illiterate and scholar, men and women, ordinary and extraordinary – anyone can be affected by Cybercrime. Cybercriminals identify but do not make distinction in their choice of targets. To fight this menace, a dignified power as stated in this definition of Spirituality is required. Citing one example from the life of Holy Mother MĀ SĀRADĀ Devi, Pravrajika Atmadevaprana has nicely explained the ways and means of acquiring spirituality in this samsara within one’s life-time. She mentioned:

“Once a lady went to Holy Mother. She expressed her desire to have some spiritual guidelines from her. But the Mother went on doing her household duties. She did puja,

cooking, distributed food and so on. All the while, the lady was following Mother. While taking leave of her, she expressed her disappointment, 'Mother! I thought of getting some instruction from you.' Mother answered, 'Yes my child! I have been instructing you all the while.' That is Holy Mother's message to us—live the life. Her own life demonstrates the glorious fact that right from the humblest household duties to that of guiding the affairs of a spiritual organization, any responsibility could be performed without losing the cosmic sweep of Divine vision. She made no distinction between the sacred and secular nor compartmentalised life in any other way."^[8]

On the teachings from life of Holy Mother MĀ SĀRADĀ Devi, Pravrajika Atmadevaprana further said:

"Small, little acts of her life show us how to live in this clumsy, consuming world of hundred little exacting problems, without being affected by them. Her central message is that one can remain unaffected by the worldly cares only by keeping God, and God alone, as the light, solace and goal of life."^[8]

'Live the life' and that's all – this is the great message from the Life of MĀ SĀRADĀ Devi. By living the life by keeping God, and God alone, as the light, solace and goal of life shall give purity and holiness, which in turn shall give that dignified strength as mentioned in the above definition of Spirituality.

In the definition of cybernetics, control and communications had been compared with that of steersman and the steering engines of a ship. Who is that illusory helmsman, who controls the dynamics of cyberspace and all the actors playing in this spacetime? The answer is ALMIGHTY GOD. For any individual, to combat cybercrime, his/her mind needs a bulletproof vest which will keep him/her unharmed from the bullets of cyberfraudsters or cybercriminals. That vest is the strength acquired through spirituality, devoid of temporality, enabling harnessing power from the ALMIGHTY.

Acquiring this spiritual strength in real life is now being discussed.

6. Combating Cybercrime – Acquiring Spiritual Strength:

Impersonation, bullying etc. are like actors playing on a stage. They appear as true but actually false. Such things are being grouped under the term '**staged-truth**'. By playing mind game, fraudsters break open the vulnerable points of mental state of a target. Differentiation between such staged-truths and actual reality is the key to remain safe from Cybercrime. It is essential to reflect on the reasons of failing to such discrimination by a victim.

6.1 Susceptibility for victimhood:

In order to explore factors predicting cybercrime susceptibility and reasons of one becoming a victim, following excerpts are being quoted from some Research Reports and Published documents:

Research Paper – “Predicting susceptibility to cyber-fraud victimhood” by Monica T. Whitty published on 07-January-2019 in Journal of Financial Crime of Emerald Publishing Limited stated followings on Victim’s Psychological Profile:

- “Victims of fraud are more likely to be: co-operative, greedy, gullible/uncritical, careless, susceptible to flattery, easily intimidated, risk takers, generous, hold respect for authority and are good citizens.
- Scam victims or near scam victims were more affected by the high values offered in scams and displayed a high degree of trust in the scammers.
- Self-control is a significant predictor of victimisation.
- Research on romance scams showed that individuals with a higher tendency towards idealisation of romantic partners were more likely to be scammed. Whitty (2013) has theorised that romance scam victims are addicted to the scam.”

This research has also hypothesised that victims of cyber-frauds are likely to score higher on measures of

- (i) Impulsivity compared with non-victims.
- (ii) External *locus* of control compared with non-victims.
- (iii) Addiction compared with non-victims.^[9]

A thesis paper of Georgia Southern University titled as "Cybercrime Victimization: Online Routine Behaviors, Guardianship, and Identity Theft Victimization in a Nationally Reflective Sample" (2024) by Ifeoluwa Stella Elegbe has stated –

“Online platforms for social networking have evolved into an important platform for the sharing of personal information, frequently without individuals fully understanding the potential risks that may be linked to such actions. The data may comprise personal information such as names, dates of birth, pet names, and phone numbers, which might be exploited for identity theft. Popular social networking networks such as Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn have become essential components of individuals' lives, rendering them susceptible to identity theft. In addition, social media has been utilized for fraudulent activities, such as phishing wherein criminals impersonate reliable entities in electronic correspondence. The confidence that users have in their social networks and the convenience of accessing a worldwide audience make social media an appealing platform for criminals to perpetrate their fraudulent activities.”^[10]

In general, people who score high on impulsivity measures of urgency, low on self-control, often ready to engage in risky behaviours to seek instant gratification, high on sensation seeking in web, are more prone to victimization.

6.2 Truth elements in Cyberfraud:

Swami Vivekananda has said – “whenever you see fraud, you have also to say that fraud is an imitation. There must be some truth somewhere, that is being imitated; you cannot imitate nothing. Imitation must be of something substantially true.”^[11] In Cyberfraud, there are two classes of truth elements. One is the equipment used by the fraudster and the victim. Computers, mobile handsets etc are extremely truthful – garbage in will always make the garbage out. Hardware used in IT infrastructure is devoid of any manipulative capacity on their own. As mentioned in Para-3, above, ‘Technology is neither good nor bad; nor is it neutral’, so improper use of equipment (which is a technological product) may make the same bad for the user. Proper ethical use of IT equipment is an essential requirement to avoid Cyberfraud. To work ethically, a disciplined mind is required.

Second is the behavioural elements of humans as detailed in Para-6.1 above. Analysis of this second component of truth-elements, as detailed above, shall enable one to reflect upon the possible ways to fence off such dangers.

6.3 Human mind:

Cybercrime involves mind game – psychological manipulation of victim’s mind by fraudster. Keeping the mind at rest is the first step to prevent victimization. It is extremely difficult to control mind. Swami Vivekananda said:

“How hard it is to control the mind! Well has it been compared to the maddened monkey. There was a monkey, restless by his own nature, as all monkeys are. As if that were not enough someone made him drink freely of wine, so that he became still more restless. Then a scorpion stung him. When a man is stung by a scorpion, he jumps about for a whole day; so the poor monkey found his condition worse than ever. To complete his misery a demon entered into him. What language can describe the uncontrollable restlessness of that monkey? The human mind is like that monkey, incessantly active by its own nature; then it becomes drunk with the wine of desire, thus increasing its turbulence. After desire takes possession comes the sting of the scorpion of jealousy at the success of others, and last of all the demon of pride enters the mind, making it think itself of all importance. How hard to control such a mind!”^[12]

It has been mentioned at Para-3 above that ‘Technology is a very human activity’. To prevent victimization, one should know the human or at least the human activity behind the other part of the IT infrastructure. A restless mind cannot do this. A mind in rest is disciplined at its best. There are several ways to keep the mind at rest. Pranayama, meditation, Japa, Yoga exercises etc. are the processes. It is up to the person concerned to choose his/her own way to adopt.

6.4 Humans are in bondage:

For the man of this world, SRI RAMAKRISHNA PARAMHANSADEVA said: “The cloth his eyes are bandaged with is fastened to his back with eight screws as it were. These are eight fetters. These fetters are: shame, hatred, fear, caste, lineage, good conduct, grief and disgust^[13] (*lajjā, ghrnā, bhaya, jāti, kula, śīla, śoka, jugupsā*. लज्जा, घृणा, भय, जाति, कुल, शील, शोक, जुगुप्सा)” Man is bonded with these eight fetters. These fetters make a person vulnerable and in turn susceptible to threats.

A sense of shame in regard to engaging oneself in dissecting, analysing and resisting an imposed accusation of immoral nature, assumes one upmanship because of holding a high position in professional or public life or having a high social status, makes one hesitate to counter and prefer to avoid than to resist staged-truths. Such veils caused by shame prevents one to rise to occasion and act judiciously.

In society, one hates the sinner and not the sin. Feeling of hatred towards another arises from the diabolical twist of lower mind. Hatred arising out of jealousy leads to greed. Such persons search for opportunities for quick gain and falls in trap. Hate negates sense of life’s unity and harmony. In the event of staged-truths, a notion of becoming a subject of hatred dawns, causing the victim to succumb to mind game played by fraudster.

Fear inflicted through staged-truth is always imaginary. Succumbing to fear disables analysis of the situation and application of common sense. Fear is negation of the ‘SELF’ (soul, God) within the self (the person, himself/herself). Fear prevents resignation to the will of Providence, instead makes the victim a slave of the situation. Swami Vivekananda said – “If there is one word that you find coming out like a bomb from the Upanishads, bursting like a bomb-shell upon masses of ignorance, it is the word fearlessness. And the only religion that ought to be taught is the religion of *fearlessness*. Either in this world or in the world of religion, it is true that fear is the sure cause of degradation and sin. It is fear that brings misery, fear that brings death, fear that breeds evil. And what causes fear? Ignorance of our own nature.”^[14]

Caste and lineage build a superiority complex from childhood. Innate nature of such superiority complex prevents adaptive knowledge required to deal with cybernetics. Superiority on the basis of caste and lineage is based on claim which has no substance in it. These are the symptoms of narrow outlook and builds up ego thus ignorance prevails.

Good conduct is an essential element for virtuous living but it prevents distinguishing between chaff and wheat and thus disables dissection of staged-truth. A person of good conduct is not necessarily *ipso facto* a knowledgeable person. Norms defining good conduct is society-manufactured and may not be applicable for other societies. Cybercrime attacks originate from different geographical areas which may be difficult to recognize by an obsessive sense of morality. To this extent good conduct is un-intelligent.

Grief holds a person in grip; a person in grip is worse than a slave. Grief, often caused by infatuation, is a distinct symptom of ignorance.

Disgust results in abhorrence to others. Repugnance results in aversion. Disgust disables one to see brighter side of others. The Imitation of Christ says: "Endeavour to be patient in bearing with other men's faults and infirmities whatsoever they be, for thou thyself also hast many things which have need to be borne with by others. If thou canst not make thine own self what thou desireth, how shalt thou be able to fashion another to thine own liking. We are ready to see others made perfect, and yet we do not amend our own shortcomings".^[15] A person of perfect knowledge is devoid of any sign of *jugupsā*.

Shackles of eight fetters make one a slave. A mind in bondage cannot differentiate between a perpetrator of crime and a honest person. These fetters create ego. Ego blinds the vision, ego disables discrimination between good and evil. As in Annamaya Kosha (mentioned in the discussion of Five Sheath), anything goes inside as food, takes the shape of the human body, similarly for a mind in bondage anything goes in takes the form of that fettered mind. A person with such mental state becomes a target for emotional manipulation by scammers. In the hierarchical level of five sheaths, thought processes born out of fettered mind does not rise beyond the level of 'animal mind'. This factors in impulsivity and sensation-seeking by the would-be victims of Cybercrime.

Similitude of fettered behaviour exhibited by the scammers or capitalising on the weakness of anyone or more of the above eight fetters by scammers shall cause trust and naivety of the targets of cybercrime.

6.5 Ignorance caused by Lust and Greed:

In this illusionary world, man is covered with veil of ignorance. The Second and Third Awakening of Eight Great Awakenings Sutra respectively mentions – "Too much desire brings pain. Death and rebirth are wearisome ordeals, originating from our thoughts of greed and lust."; "Our minds are never satisfied or content with just enough. The more we obtain, the more we want. Thus, we create offenses and perform evil deeds."^[16]

BHAGAVAN SRI RAMAKRISHNA PARAMHANSADÉVA said – "Without renouncing 'lust and greed,' one does not succeed. It is only by renunciation that ignorance is dispelled. When the rays of the sun fall on a lens, many objects burn. On the other hand, if you take the lens inside a room where there is no sunlight, nothing is burned - you have to come out of the room to use the lens."^[17] The word 'lust' has got several meanings; besides 'intense sexual desire', lust also means craving, eagerness, excessive enthusiasm, pleasure, relish etc. Greed is not only for money but also any desire to possess more than the necessity is greed. Even, always craving for updated version of electronic devices, commodities first time appearing in market also amounts to greed. Lust and greed, both are polysemous but synonymous with the word 'desire'. Desires are like Hydra (genus). If a Hydra (genus) is cut in half, each half will

regenerate and shall form into two small Hydra. Similarly, for humans, a desire fulfilled gives rise to some other desire. Renunciation is not difficult, if one thinks of improbability of fulfilment of one after another desire. Remaining contented is the first step of renunciation. Incremental desires, or one after another desire leads to frustration, which may result into frequent online activities resulting in increased chances of exposure to cyberfraudsters. Risky transactions, allurements of gaining more profit are the causations which make one susceptible for victimhood.

6.6 Discussion:

On 26-June-1895, Swami Vivekananda said – “We are what our thoughts have made us; so take care of what you think. Words are secondary. Thoughts live, they travel far. Each thought we think is tinged with our own character, so that for the pure and holy man, even his jests or abuse will have the twist of his own love and purity and do good.”^[18] Repairing of on-board computer of Voyager-1 from Earth shows how thoughts are live and travel far and wide. Persons using Computers or Mobile Devices need to ensure that they do not become the causes for an incident of cybercrime. Actions and deeds emanate from thoughts. Thoughts create vibrations, which goes to ‘akasha’, - the space. For cyber activities, vibrations emanating from thoughts of users go to Cyberspace. Thoughts from restless, undisciplined, unethical, narcissist mind caught in the clutches of fetters has got the potential to create conditions which together with causes results in happenings of Cybercrime.

7. Conclusion

When Holy Mother MĀ SĀRADĀ Devi was sick, then one day, a lady devotee came to see HER. SHE beckoned her to come near and said to pray to and to depend on SRI RAMAKRISHNA. After a pause, MĀ SĀRADĀ said: **“But one thing I tell you – if you want peace, my daughter, don’t find fault with others, but find fault rather with yourself. Learn to make the world your own. Nobody is a stranger, my dear; the world is yours.”**^[19] One must therefore try not to become himself/herself be the cause and not create conditions conducive of occurrence of Cybercrimes. To achieve this one is to live a life with holy and pure thoughts.

8. Glossary:

Term	Glossary
Impulsivity	Impulsivity is a behavioural trait marked by the tendency to act quickly, often without thinking about the potential consequences. Lacks of forethought, planning and careful considerations are characteristic features of impulsive behaviours.

Term	Glossary
Locus of Control	Locus of control is related to psychology of humans and it shows the extent to which one feel he or she has control over the environment in which he or she is living or through which he or she is passing. Environment impacts one's life. Information environment in Cyberspace impacts individuals. Internal Locus of Control is the individual belief that he/she can control his/her life, tackle the impacts through his/her own actions. External Locus Control is the individual belief that forces external to him/her like fate, chance, luck, or other persons control his/her life.
Staged-truth	As in the case of theatres, actors play the characters, as if the character itself is on the stage, so in Cybercrimes like Cyberfraud, cyberbullying etc. the Cybercriminals pose as genuine police officers or officials from law enforcing agencies or as a genuine broker. Their such actions have been termed as staged-truth in this article.

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