



सत्यमेव जयते

**Government of India**  
Ministry Of Communications & Information Technology  
**Department of Telecommunications**

# **Mobile Revolution , M- Commerce and Crimes**

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## BACKGROUND

- ➔ With the increasing penetration of mobile services and development of a variety of new applications, a mobile handset has become a valuable item particularly in terms of the personal data/information stored in it.
- ➔ The level of security of mobile phones is becoming increasingly important as the mobile phones are also used as payment terminals using M-Commerce in addition to all other services like email, tweeting, facebook, e-ticket etc.



## BACKGROUND

- ➔ One of the objectives of the draft NTP 2011 is to **reposition the mobile phone** from a mere communication device **to an instrument of empowerment** that combines communication with proof of identity, fully secure financial and other transaction capability, multi-lingual services and a whole range of other capabilities that ride on them and transcend the literacy barrier.
- ➔ Therefore, theft/ loss of a mobile phone is emerging as a serious concern to the consumers. It is a serious problem the world over.

## REQUIRED REMEDIAL STEPS

- ➔ International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers are stored in the Equipment Identity Register (EIR) database of service providers.
- ➔ In case of a complaint regarding theft of a handset, the service provider can flag the IMEI number of the handset and can block the handset in its own network.
- ➔ If the EIRs of service providers are shared through a centralised database, the lost / stolen mobile can be prevented from use in all networks . If a stolen/lost handset is rendered useless in the hands of unscrupulous elements and the dissemination of this fact becomes widespread, it will be a big deterrent against stealing of mobile phones.
- ➔ A centralised database (**National Mobile Property Registry**) is therefore required which will be the repository of all IMEIs.

## ISSUES

### Reprogramming of handsets:

- ➔ IMEI numbers of handsets can be changed through reprogramming and hence there could be many handsets in the market, which have been reprogrammed and sold after theft.
- ➔ It is therefore required that the re-programming of mobile phones is made a criminal offence through suitable legislation to prevent re-programming.

## ISSUES

### Duplicate IMEIs:

- ➔ There are a large number of mobile handsets in the network with duplicate IMEIs. With such a large number of duplicate IMEIs being used, blocking a handset with duplicate IMEIs would cause serious consumer discontent as all the other handsets with the same IMEI will also be blocked.
- ➔ The process therefore can be implemented only after a one time cleaning up exercise is carried out.

## ISSUES

### CDMA Sets :

- ➔ For CDMA, there are two types of handsets namely Non-Removable User Identity Module (Non-RUIM) and Removable User Identity Module(RUIM). In Non-RUIM handsets each time a call is placed, the unique ESN (Electronic Serial Number) is automatically transmitted to the base station so the wireless carrier's mobile switching centre can check the call's validity and therefore, in Non-RUIM based handsets, unique ESN is transmitted.
- ➔ However, in RUIM based handsets UIMID (user identity module identifier) is in a RUIM. Since UIMID is placed on RUIM and not on the handset, tracking /blocking a stolen/lost CDMA handset will not be possible.



## INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES

- ➔ The mobile theft is discouraged by maintaining the Central Equipment Identity Register in one form or the other in many countries of the world like UK, Australia, France, Philippines, Poland, Pakistan, Turkey etc.
- ➔ In UK ,the legislation is in place under which re-programming of mobile handset is an offence .



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## ACTION PLAN

- ➔ A proposal to establish a National Mobile Property Registry in India is at present under consideration in DoT.



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THANK YOU