

Peace, Security and Prosperity

# Vigilant India

◀ Issue: 01-15 July, 2023 ▶ Year : 1 ▶ Volume: 7

Complimentary Copy



## Fortifying Indian Cybersecurity in the Digital Age

**G20 Conference on Crime and Security**  
**In the age of NFTs AI & Metaverse**

वयुधैव कुटुम्बकम्

ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE



# Contents

Delegates' Insights: Balance Privacy & Regulation	11
Prevention of Cyber Crime in India	14
Chandrayaan-3 Propels the Nation's Space Aspirations	18
Gita Press : Awakening India Through 100 Years	20
Government Steps up Disaster Preparedness	21
CISF gets Aviation Security Control Center	23
Dialogue and Outreach	24
Democratize Technology, Secure Cyberspace	26

## Cover Story



05 Fortifying Indian  
Cybersecurity...



19 Prime Minister Modi's  
Visit to France and UAE



25 Reviews and  
Resolutions



**Balaji Srivastava**

Director General, BPR&D

“

Recognizing the emerging nature of cyber crime and its potential consequences, under India's G20 Presidency, the Ministry of Home Affairs recently organized a conference titled "Crime and Security in the Age of NFTs, AI, and the Metaverse."

”

With the advancement of the internet for the use of common men and women, cyberspace has become one of the most exciting places for sharing knowledge, information, and learning. Now, taking a new leap, the universe of the internet has enabled the emergence of Artificial Intelligence to perform tasks that were once the domain of humans. A similar transformation can be seen in Metaverse, where virtual identities are superimposed to create seemingly real experiences. The shift has extended to the financial world as well through Crypto currency models and Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs).

These developments have given rise to a wider cyber world with dual use applications. While most individuals benefit from its convenience, criminals have also taken advantage of cyberspace for pursuing their nefarious purposes.

Recognizing the emerging nature of cyber crime and its potential consequences, under India's G20 Presidency, the Ministry of Home Affairs recently organized a conference titled "Crime and Security in the Age of NFTs, AI, and the Metaverse." The objective was to draw the attention of the world community to this evolving threat and adapt law enforcement skills accordingly. The conference served as a vital platform for high-level international representatives from various sectors, including law enforcement, research organizations, academia, and banking, to discuss, collaborate, and strategize on mitigating risks.

The Conference, inaugurated by the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, who heads the governance of internal peace and security in the world's largest democracy, underscored the global interconnectedness of cyber crime. Shri Shah strongly urged the world community to forge alliances across borders to combat this menace effectively.

The presence and active participation of the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Ajay Kumar Mishra, and the Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar added to the significance of the conference, reinforcing the Government's commitment to address this emerging challenge. In his valedictory address, the Union Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw provided immensely valuable insights on the way forward.

The current issue of Vigilant India delves deep into issues related to cybersecurity. It also provides a glimpse of the proceedings of the aforementioned G20 conference. While it may appear to be a domain for specialists and experts, we have endeavoured to simplify these matters and emphasize the importance of awareness in this rapidly evolving landscape.

We look forward to your feedback and suggestions on this 7<sup>th</sup> issue of Vigilant India. Please feel free to share your comments at [dg@bprd.nic.in](mailto:dg@bprd.nic.in). Thank you for your support and engagement with Vigilant India.

Jai Hind!



I am deeply grateful for the opportunities to work towards the rejuvenation of our magnificent cultural heritage. It is always wonderful to remain connected to our roots and celebrate the rich tapestry of our traditions and values.



**-Shri Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister



There should be a 24x7 cybersecurity mechanism for effective predictive, preventive, protective, and recovery actions. #G20India



**-Shri Amit Shah**  
Union Home Minister and  
Minister of Cooperation



जल जीवन मिशन के तहत 11 करोड़ से अधिक घरों में नल कनेक्शन, आयुष्मान भारत जन आरोग्य योजना से 22 करोड़ से अधिक लाभार्थियों के स्वास्थ्य की चिंता की गई, ई-नाम प्लेटफार्म पर 1.74 करोड़ किसानों का पंजीकरण और प्रधानमंत्री मुद्रा योजना के तहत 23.2 लाख करोड़ का लोन दिया जा चुका है।



**- श्री नित्यानंद राय**  
केंद्रीय गृह राज्य मंत्री



The launch of PM MITRA Park in Maharashtra epitomizes the power of Hon'ble PM Sh @narendramodi ji's 5F vision. #PragatiKaPMMitra amplifies the momentum, ushering in a remarkable era of growth, innovation, and endless possibilities.



**-Shri Nisith Pramanik**  
Union Minister of State for Home Affairs



LVM3 M4 vehicle successfully launched Chandrayaan-3 into orbit. Congratulations to all the scientists who worked for this project. @isro



**-Shri Ajay Mishra**  
Union Minister of State for Home Affairs

गृह मंत्री श्री अमित शाह ने अपराध और सुरक्षा पर हो रहे जी20 सम्मेलन को सम्बोधित करते हुए कहा कि कोई भी देश या संगठन, अकेले साइबर खतरों का मुकाबला नहीं कर सकता, हमें कन्वेंशनल जियोग्राफिक बॉर्डर से ऊपर उठकर सोचना होगा और इसके लिए एक यूनाइटेड फ्रंट की आवश्यकता है।



**-गृह मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार**



# Fortifying Indian Cybersecurity in the Digital Age

## G20 Conference on Crime and Security In the age of NFTs AI & Metaverse

### Bureau

**B** Brilliant minds across the world are working tirelessly to make our lives easier through continuous inventions to harness the unlimited potential of cyber space. Computer hardware and software-based technologies have a significant impact on the way we live and do our daily chores. It has been so revolutionizing that we do not even care to recall how things were done two decades back.

These are surely positive changes that have embraced

mankind because of the creative contributions of our cyber professionals. However, equally tech-savvy minds are operating underground to hack, break and disrupt these inventions that are now so much a part of our everyday lives. They are highly qualified criminals, trained in advanced technology and computer programming.

These cyber crooks are a menace and pose a threat to civil societies, democracies and governments. As the established world order seeks a secure future for its citizens, criminals try their luck to disrupt the cyberspace



Today, the world is moving towards a new world order. India's strength and role are rapidly changing. India is currently the President of the G20. It is the first time that a country's presidency is witnessing over 200 meetings taking place in every corner of that country. The entire G20 group is observing India's potential and is mesmerized by it. Whether it is climate change, global supply chains, terrorism, or extremism, India's experience and efforts in dealing with every challenge are proving to be beneficial for the world.

- **Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister**

## No single country or organization can combat cyber threats alone. It requires a united front.

and dupe people.

To tackle this threat, there is an urgent need to take measures that beef up cybersecurity. The challenges are manifold because technology is not stagnant.

India is very much aware of this monumental challenge. Considering its importance, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs organized a conference on "Crime and Security in the era of NFTs, AI and Metaverse" in Gurugram near the national capital on 13-14 July, 2023. This was part of a series of 200 meetings that India had committed to organize in the runup to the G20 summit to be held in New Delhi on 9-10 September, 2023.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the conference, which was the

first such meeting related to cyber threats in the history of the G20. While asserting that under India's presidency, the effort is to flag issues of national and international importance, the minister said that the theme of the meeting was "the most relevant in today's digital world".

Echoing this year's G20 theme of 'One Earth-One Family-One Future' Union Home Minister, Shri Shah

### Structure of the G20 Conference

**The G20 Conference on Crime and Security in the age of NFTs, AI, and Metaverse consisted of the following thematic sessions:**

- Internet Governance - National Responsibility and Global Commons
- Securing Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) - Addressing the Challenges of Digitalization: Design, Architecture, Policies, and Preparedness
- Extended Reality, Metaverse, and the Future of Digital Ownership - Legal and Regulatory Framework
- Artificial Intelligence - Challenges, Opportunities, and Responsible Use
- Understanding the Dark Net: Challenges of Crypto currency and Dark Net Connections
- Addressing Criminal Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) - Developing an International Cooperation Framework



**Cybersecurity has become an essential aspect of global security that requires adequate attention to be paid to its economic and geo-political implications. The targets in digital warfare are not physical resources, but ability to act online. Disruption of online network even for a few minutes can be fatal. The G20 Forum led by Union Ministry of Home Affairs deliberated on 'Crime and Security in the Age of NFTs, AI and the Metaverse' over a period of two days.**

referred to the "Digital World" to describe the reality of today, and connected the audience with India's cultural heritage that believes in *Vashudhaiv Kutumbakam* that should ensure the reach of digital technology to everyone in a secure way.

Recognising that technology has transcended all conventional geographical, political and economic boundaries, the Union Home Minister said that the globe today is a big "digital village", which is under threat due to "some anti-social elements and global forces, which are using technology to cause economic and social harm to citizens and governments."

Because of the all-pervasive presence of technology in our lives, the need for cybersecurity has become important across all physical boundaries and has become a matter of national and global security in wider terms. That is why there is no time to wait, said delegates present in the two days' conference. They suggested that global collaborations on cybersecurity would have to be made urgently.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Shah quoted Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi as saying, "cybersecurity is no longer confined to the digital world only. It has become a subject of national security–global security." He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India has embraced emerging technologies and endeavored to make them accessible and affordable to all. With a firm belief in integrating technology with compassion, Prime Minister, Shri Modi has emphasized the humane aspect of technology, ensuring compassion and sensitivity in its application. His vision of combining the "Internet of Things" with the "Emotions of Things" has



#### Insights from Shri Amit Shah's Remarks

- Urgent need for cooperation at the national and international levels to build a cyber resilience world.
- The theme of India's G20 presidency is most relevant in today's 'Digital World'.
- Technology has transcended conventional geographical, political and economic boundaries.
- Anti-social elements and some global forces are using technology to cause economic and social harm to citizens and governments.
- Terrorists are finding new ways to perpetrate violence, radicalize youth and raise financial resources.
- New methods in the form of virtual assets are being used by terrorists for financial transactions.
- There is a possibility that cyber crimes will increase manifold in the future.
- 'Digital delivery of services' has transformed India into a 'Digital Nation' within a decade.
- The aim is to make modern technology more accessible and affordable to all sections of society.
- There is a need to strengthen the capabilities of nations and international organizations to deal with new and emerging challenges.
- Transformation of security challenges from 'Dynamite to Metaverse' and 'Hawala to Crypto currency' is a matter of concern for the world.

paved the way for inclusive technology to all. Cybersecurity is a requirement for an individual as well as for a nation. If not responded to properly, the menace of cyber insecurity might turn into a threat. India being the largest thriving democracy, has the largest responsibility as well to draw



Our Internet vision should neither be one of excessive freedom threatening the very existence of our nations nor one of isolationist structures such as digital firewalls. India has set up certain 'open-access digital public infrastructure' models, which have become examples in the world today. India has developed Aadhaar model for digital identity, UPI model of real-time fast payment, Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), and, Open Health Service Network in the field of health.

**-Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation**

realm. Referring to the latest data from government achievements, he said that 840 million Indians have an online presence, and by 2025, another 400 million are projected to join the digital world. This monumental growth in digital connectivity has been supported by a 250% increase in internet connections over the past nine years. Furthermore, the cost per GB of data has been reduced by an impressive 96%, making it more accessible to a large segment of the population.

While further elucidating the achievements in the use of digital connectivity, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Shah cited Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana under which India has made significant strides in financial inclusion. To date, 500 million new bank accounts have been opened, and 330 million RuPay debit cards have been distributed. India leads the world in global digital payments, with 90 million transactions in 2022 alone. The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has facilitated transactions amounting to ₹ 35 trillion, making

the attention of the world towards the rising spectre of cyber crime.

Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah apprised the world audience about the size of India's own digital revolution, bringing millions of citizens into the online



In India, 840 million people are connected to the internet, making cybersecurity a significant challenge. India possesses the number one cybersecurity system.



Through the utilization of technology and the internet over the past nine years, New India has transformed the decades-old story of governance into a modern and responsible administration. This transformation is changing people's lives and stands as a beacon of light for the rest of the world.

**-Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State for Entrepreneurship, Skill Development, Electronics and Information Technology.**





India a frontrunner in digital financial transactions. In fact, 46% of global digital payments are conducted in India, demonstrating the country's digital prowess. There has been a remarkable 50-fold increase in transaction volume since 2017-18.

India's digital transformation extends beyond financial inclusion. Through the JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) initiative, the government has generated 1.38 billion Aadhaar digital identities, covering over 300 schemes across 52 ministries. Utilizing this facility, an amount of Rs. 300 million has been transferred directly to the beneficiaries' bank accounts.

The government's DigiLocker platform has also played a vital role in storing essential documents securely, housing approximately 6 billion documents to date. Leveraging technology for public health, the Co-Win app had facilitated 2.2 billion Covid-19 vaccinations, ensuring efficient vaccination management. Additionally, the BharatNet initiative has laid 6 lakh kilometres of optical fibre cable enhancing internet connectivity across the country. The Unified Mobile Application for New Age Governance (UMANG) has witnessed 53 million registrations, providing citizens with a unified platform for various government services.

The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation said, "initiatives for 'digital delivery of



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Digital India vision has led to an increase in internet usage in the country, benefiting the people and promoting paperless work in the government. In this context, the field of Information Technology becomes highly crucial. The discussions held by experts on cybersecurity in the past two days emphasize the importance of security for every nation. The six sessions conducted during these two days have focused on both the present and the future. It is essential for us to remain vigilant about our country's cybersecurity more than ever before. India aims to preserve its social fabric intact in the digital era and progress towards a secure life on the internet. Facial recognition technology is gaining popularity, and we must ensure privacy is safeguarded at every step.



**-Shri Ajay Kumar Mishra,  
Union Minister of State for Home Affairs**

services' have transformed India into a 'Digital Nation' within a decade." With such mega use of digital technology, any laxity on cybersecurity would cost the economy and the lives of the common people greatly. According to the 'Global Trend Summary Report 2022' released by Interpol recently, the possibilities of cyber

### Participants at the Conference

The conference witnessed the participation of delegates from G20 member countries, the African Union, and nine guest countries, namely Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain, and the United Arab Emirates. International organizations INTERPOL and UNODC also sent their official delegates. Other attendees included those from research organizations, academic institutions, law enforcement agencies, and administrative officials from various countries, Indian States, and Union Territories. The conference also welcomed representatives from Indian and international law enforcement agencies. In total, the conference hosted nearly 900 delegates.



Our future has given us the opportunity to remain steadfast in our commitment to 'using technology with sensitivity' and 'ensuring public safety and security'. However, this task cannot be handled by the government alone. We aim to create a 'Cyber Success World' and not a 'Cyber Failure World'. Together, we can harness the potential of these technologies while ensuring a 'secure and prosperous digital future' for all. Let us seize this opportunity to collaborate, share our ideas and forge international partnerships.

**-Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation**

threats have increased and taken different forms with increase in internet penetration. The report warns that some of the cyber crime trends such as ransomware, phishing, online scams, online child sexual abuse, and hacking are posing serious threats across the globe and are becoming a challenge for maintaining order in the respective societies. "The G20 has so far focused on digital transformation and data flow from an economic perspective, but now it is very important to understand the aspects of crime and security and find a solution," Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Shah cautioned. He said that seeing these challenges, "It is our endeavor to stay ahead in the era of NFT, AI, Metaverse, and other emerging technologies by responding in a timely manner to new and emerging threats in a coordinated and cooperative approach".

Union Home Minister, Shri Shah said that the Government of India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Modi, has made significant efforts to enhance cybersecurity measures. A uniform cyber strategy has been

outlined, real-time reporting of cyber crimes has been established, and capacity building of law enforcement agencies (LEAs) has been prioritized. The establishment of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Center (I4C) ensures a comprehensive response against cyber crime.

Finally, since all the developments in the cyber world are taking place with support of artificial intelligence, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Shah asked for building "Transparent and Accountable AI and Emerging Technologies Governance Framework" to ensure responsible use. He also advocated creating a "dedicated common channel" among nations to prevent financial irregularities. In addition, he suggested introducing a system of third-party verification of NFT platforms to strengthen trust and to curb criminal activities. Needless to say, the G20 needs to push for a renewed global commitment on cybersecurity. Advocating for a resolution, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Shah reaffirmed India's commitment for creating a Cyber Successful world and not a Cyber Failed globe. ■





# Delegates' Insights: Balance Privacy & Regulation

## Bureau

**T**he two-day G20 Conference on Crime and Security in the age of NFTs, AI and Metaverse witnessed enlightening and informative discussions in a structured manner. The topic was so interesting that panellists and participants were glued to their seats making notes, listening avidly and raising questions for clarifications. The indoor conference was organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India in partnership with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry of External Affairs, National Security Council Secretariat, and the Central

Bureau of Investigation as well as Interpol and UNODC. Apart from participants from these organizations, the Conference brought together G20 countries, guest countries, special invitees, international bodies and institutions, technology leaders and subject matter experts from around the world.

The six technical sessions, in addition to the Inaugural and Valedictory sessions saw brainstorming around the issues of utmost relevance pertaining to the emerging cyber world. In these sessions, the aim of the speakers was to comprehensively discuss and find solutions to the challenges arising from cyber crime. They also discussed ways to ensure security in the era of highly innovative but largely unregulated new technologies like NFTs, AI, and Metaverses. The speakers acknowledged



that cyber-attacks are creating serious and complex challenges at all levels. But, there are issues of paramount importance related to cyber attacks, lack of regulation and law enforcement. The panelists as well the audience discussed issues like human rights and privacy while raising the need for regulation, making the conference both academic and practical. Emphasizing global cooperation, experts highlighted the need to increase interaction among professionals as well among the regulatory bodies. Their discussions included cyber awareness, robust regulations, and digital infrastructure in addition to strengthening the talent pool to ensure innovation of new technology and the security of individuals, organizations and society from wrong doers.



**Ms. Anat Shoshana Gueta**, who was the former Chair of the Israeli Securities Authority addressed the issue of jurisdiction and applicability of laws in the realm of cybersecurity. She emphasized the need to differentiate between cyber crimes and the application of appropriate laws to different types of offenses. A one-size-fits-all approach won't suffice. Additionally, Anat highlighted the importance of keeping abreast of developments in generative AI and Web 3, as well as the evolution of decentralized apps (dapps), which often operate outside the control of a single authority.



**Mr. Madan Mohan Oberoi**, Executive Director of Technology & Innovation in Interpol, Singapore drew attention of the audience to the challenges of job displacement due to AI. He stressed on the importance of addressing ethical and human rights implications. He pointed out that privacy rights are also a significant concern, particularly in democratic societies where law enforcement should address these issues affecting the general population.



**Dr. Omar Hatamleh**, Lead for NASA IT Strategy, USA highlighted the rapid development of AI and urged for a closer collaboration between academic institutions and industries. However, he expressed concerns about the lack of democracy in AI and advised taking measured risks in innovation and dissemination. Nevertheless, he recognized the

potential of AI to improve societies and called for innovative mechanisms to bolster enforcement systems.



**Mr. Mark Timothy Turnage**, CEO and Founder of DarkOwl, USA cautioned that while the dark net's origin was non-malicious, it is now primarily associated with criminal activities, with 95 per cent of its use being criminal. He highlighted the use of dark nets for donating to terrorist organizations through crypto currencies. He said that in order to address this danger, regulations are needed when they exchange crypto currencies for real currencies at payment gateways.



**Mr. Vijay Nambiar**, G20 Sherpa and former Under Secretary General of the United Nations noted that 40 per cent of cyber-attacks target state institutions. Criminals heavily use AI for their illicit activities, turning it into a profitable industry. He suggested effective use of the Budapest Convention for cyber coordination among countries.



American cybersecurity expert and Head of Cybersecurity Strategy in PayPal, **Mr. Dimitry Shvartsman** revealed that over the past 3 years, there has been a significant increase of 742 percent in average cyberattacks. Cyber crime has become a rapidly growing field, encompassing activities such as phishing, spoofing, network scanning, data breaches, service disruptions, virus infections, code manipulation, and website hacking. He emphasized that it was a borderless and global phenomenon affecting the top five countries, including India, vulnerable to cyber crimes.



**Ms. Nnenna Nwakanma**, Board member of I-DAIR of Côte d'Ivoire in West Africa said that building trust in policies was the first challenge in enforcement. She said that digital cooperation among all stakeholders in the ecosystem of trust must be ensured. In this context, internet governance should be inclusive, benefiting everyone. This will address numerous issues, such as global cooperation vs. national security, security vs. individual rights, personal privacy vs. state



responsibility, regional regulators vs. global agreements, and the balance between private sector interests and public welfare, as well as innovation and larger societal goals.



**Mr. Pablo Luis Hinojosa Azaola**, Director of Strategic Engagement, APNIC of Australia raised the issue of skill and talent. He said that while significant infrastructure had been developed, there was lack of the necessary talent to fully utilize these facilities. Therefore, there should be a focus on creating and nurturing

talent, especially with over 5 billion global internet users, including 3 billion from G20 countries. Achieving internal security and effective governance in this context would require a multi-sectoral approach.



**Ms. Edwina Fitzmaurice**, Chief Customer Success Officer, EY of USA introduced the concept of "Regovation," a rational balance between regulation and innovation. She advocated for greater freedom in cyber activities while dwelling upon the relationship between governance and innovation for the rational development

of cyberspace. She raised concerns that excessive governance and regulation might hinder innovation.

During the presentation, **Mr. Ashok Jhunjunwala**, Professor from IIT Madras, **Mr. Abhishek Parui**, Associate



Professor from IIT Madras and **Mr. Arun Balaji Buduru**, Assistant Professor from IIT Delhi highlighted the need to develop capabilities in the cyber-physical systems domain, including research and technology transition through the usage of increased funding from industry and other sources. They emphasized that the world has become heavily reliant on technology and this makes it inevitable to focus on 5G adoption, device interconnectivity, new processes, protocols, updated employee profiles, and a less-controlled working environment.



**Mr. Rajeev Jain**, a member of the National Human Rights Commission, India, stated that cyberspace is now being misused to violate various human rights, including personal privacy. Hence, cybersecurity is the key to combat cyber crimes and protect human rights. Even children

are falling prey to these threats. He mentioned that India has enacted various international treaties to implement measures for safeguarding children's rights. He urged everyone to stay vigilant and not be complacent in their efforts. Internet service providers should also be careful in fulfilling their responsibilities. ■

*All Photos : Bureau of Police Research & Development/MHA*





# Prevention of Cyber Crime in India

**Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs takes the cybersecurity challenges head on**

## Bureau

**P**olice' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Therefore, States and Union Territories are primarily responsible for the prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of crime through their Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs). The LEAs take legal action against offenders as per the provisions of the law.

However, in the course of tackling the cyber crimes, cordination is established between states and union government through various agencies. The Central Government supports state initiatives through advisories and financial assistance provided under various schemes to enhance their capacity in dealing with cyber crime. One such scheme is the Cyber Crime Prevention against Women & Children (CCPWC) scheme, where financial assistance has been provided to all states and UTs. This scheme focuses on setting up cyber forensic-cum-training laboratories, training, and hiring junior cyber consultants. Notably, cyber forensic-

The government of India has also created a massive open online courses platform called the 'CyTrain' portal, which perhaps, will be the world's largest training program in the field of cybersecurity. The Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System (CCTNS) has been implemented in all the police stations of the country. Government has established the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Center (I-4C) to ensure a comprehensive response against cyber crime.

**-Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation**

To prevent any crime, the way all the countries cooperate with each other at the international level, the same coordination has to be kept for cybersecurity. Challenges are arising every day in the field of cybersecurity due to new technology, and these challenges are continuously increasing. To effectively address this issue, all countries have to work together and share the solutions among themselves.

**-Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology**



cum-training laboratories have already been commissioned in 28 states.

To further strengthen the fight against cyber crime, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) has been established by the government. Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah during the G20 conference flagged off cyber volunteer squads comprised of students from seven educational institutions in the country. The squads will work to generate cyber awareness, identify and report harmful content and render technical assistance for making society cyber-safe.

For public involvement in reporting cyber crime, the government has launched the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal ([www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in)). This portal allows the public to report incidents of various cyber crimes, with special attention given to crimes against women and children. Moreover, a toll-free number, 1930, has been activated to assist individuals in lodging online cyber complaints. Furthermore, the Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System module has been introduced to facilitate immediate reporting of financial frauds and prevent fund siphoning by fraudsters.

The Government of India has also created CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team) to enhance cybersecurity and prevent cyber-attacks. CERT-In regularly issues alerts and advisories concerning the latest cyber threats and vulnerabilities, suggesting countermeasures to protect computers and networks. To foster proactive threat mitigation, CERT-In operates an automated cyber threat exchange platform, collecting, analyzing, and sharing tailored alerts with organizations across sectors.

To ensure cybersecurity readiness, CERT-In conducts regular training

programs for network and system administrators and Chief Information Security Officers of government and critical sector organizations. Mock drills are also conducted to assess the cybersecurity posture and preparedness of various organizations.

CERT-In operates the Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre), which detects malicious programs and provides free tools to remove them. The center also offers cybersecurity tips and best practices for citizens and organizations.

The National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) has been established by CERT-In to generate situational awareness of existing and potential cybersecurity threats. It is currently operational in Phase-I. Furthermore, CERT-In collaborates with international CERTs, overseas organizations, service providers, and Law Enforcement Agencies to coordinate incident response measures. CERT-In also provides leadership for the Computer Security Incident Response Team-Finance Sector (CSIRT-Fin) operations, which respond to, contain and mitigate cybersecurity incidents reported from the financial sector. Additionally, the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) conducts programs to raise

awareness about information security. Specifically designed materials, including books, videos, and online resources, are developed for children, parents, and general users. These materials are disseminated through portals like "[www.infosecawareness.in](http://www.infosecawareness.in)" and "[www.csk.gov.in](http://www.csk.gov.in)."

By implementing these measures and fostering collaboration between central and state governments, India strives to create a safer cyber environment for its citizens and to protect them from cyber threats. ■



## Protect Your Cyberspace

### Mobile Phone & Tablets

Mobile phones and tablets are an integral part of our lives today. They are used for a variety of purposes, including communication, collaboration, and data access. That is why mobile phones can also be a security risk if they are not used properly. Secure use of mobile phones is essential to protect personal and organizational data. Misuse of mobile phones can lead to a variety of problems including data theft, financial loss, unauthorized access, malware infection etc.

#### What to do

- Be careful with public Wi-Fi, information shared on public networks can be misused.
- Consider the default privacy settings of smartphones, mobile applications and social media accounts.
- Personal photos posted on social media with public visibility option can be misused.
- Check the reputation/ authenticity of an app before downloading it.
- Read the privacy policies of the seller and verify the app permission before downloading the app.
- Prefer downloading mobile apps only from trusted sources.
- Close/remove unnecessary apps
- Register with Telecom Operators for 'Do Not Disturb'.
- Use parental control mode while giving mobile phones to children or minors.
- Use device/SD card encryption to protect confidential data.
- Protect your device with a strong PIN/password or biometrics and enable the setting of Auto Lock in the mobile phone.
- Always keep backup of data like contacts, personal, photos etc.

#### What not to do

- Do not reply to or click on links sent by strangers through SMS, e-mail or chat messages.
- Do not store any type of classified sensitive data like taxes, videos, photographs etc. in the device.
- Do not login to accounts, especially financial accounts, using public wireless networks.

### Computer

Computer security is the protection of computer systems from theft and unauthorized access of information. It is the process of preventing and detecting unauthorized use of computer systems.

Computer security threats are potential threats that may interfere with the normal functioning of a computer. Some of the common and harmful computer threats are- Computer Virus, Computer Trojan, Phishing Mail/URL, Botnet, Key logger.

#### What to do

- Always download applications/software from trusted sources.
- Regularly update the operating system, applications and anti-virus software.
- Make sure to back up important data/files/documents at regular intervals.
- Keep the computer screen locked when not in use.
- Always keep the computer firewall on.
- Use accounts with less privileges on the system.
- Always prefer to use genuine/licensed software applications.
- Scan all files/content downloaded from websites, e-mail or USB.
- Uninstall unnecessary programs or software.
- Use the Task Manager to identify any unwanted programs running on the computer system.
- Access to the server must be permitted through multi-factor authentication.
- Turn off Remote Desktop Connection and network file sharing when not in use.
- Set the operating system update settings to the Auto download option for regular updates.

#### What not to do

- Never install or use pirated copies of software/applications. These may contain malware.
- Don't use weak passwords like password@123,etc.
- Do not click on untrustworthy/unexpected pop-up advertisements/programs.
- Do not dispose of computer or hard drive without extracting and erasing data.





## Internet Safety Protocol

Using the Internet without adequate security can pose a risk to any organization. Internet security encompasses browser security, website security, and software applications. These measures are designed to protect against cyber attacks on the Internet such as phishing, online viruses, Trojans, worms, ransomware, commercial email breaches, and financial losses.

### What to do

- Be careful while clicking/downloading suspicious links/URLs.
- Get into the habit of clearing browser history after confidential activities/transactions.
- Use cloud storage with appropriate security/privacy settings.
- Verify the authenticity and identity of social media profiles before sharing any information.
- Use judiciously those services that require location

information. Avoid posting photos with GPS coordinates.

### What not to do

- Do not use any public computer or Wi-Fi for financial transactions like online shopping, internet banking, UPI etc.
- Do not provide e-mail address, phone number, payment card details etc. to untrustworthy and unsecured websites.
- Do not trust and share unverified content on social media and messaging apps. Always check the authenticity of the source and content before sharing.



Union Home Secretary,  
Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla  
releasing Chair's  
Summary of the  
Conference on Crime and  
Security in the Age of  
NFTs, AI and Metaverse

## Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre

Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre, also read as I-four-C and written as I4C is established under the Ministry of Home Affairs to strengthen capabilities of Law Enforcement Agencies & to improve coordination among the stakeholders to deal with cyber crime. It has seven verticals for smooth operation.

1. National Cyber crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) connecting more than 250 financial institutions. The cyber crime incidents can be reported on portal or on National cyber crime helpline number 1930.
2. National Cyber crime Threat Analytics Unit (NCTAU) is a platform for government and private research agencies for analysis on the collected cyber crime feeds from open sources and other agencies.
3. National Cyber crime Forensic Laboratory (NCFL) provides online forensic services to Central and State Law Enforcement Agencies in addressing issues of digital forensics.
4. National Cyber crime in Ecosystem Management Unit (NCEMU) formed to develop ecosystems to neutralize threats from cybercriminals by bringing together government and non-government organizations through multi-pronged efforts for creating awareness.
5. Joint Cyber crime Coordination Teams (JCCT) constituted for interstate coordination among law enforcement agencies on cyber crime investigations.
6. National Cyber crime Training Centre (NCTC) focuses on standardization of cyber crime courses and practical training.
7. National Cyber crime Research and Innovation Centre (NCR&IC) to track emerging technologies and to predict potential vulnerabilities.

# Chandrayaan-3 Propels the Nation's Space Aspirations



Chandrayaan-3 has written a new chapter in India's space journey. It soars high, lifting the dreams and ambitions of every Indian. This significant achievement is a testimony to the tireless dedication of our scientists. I salute their spirit and talent.

**-Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister**

## Bureau

India's scientific achievements in space have propelled the nation to a new height, with Chandrayaan-3 serving as the latest example of this remarkable progress. On 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023, a momentous event unfolded as the country's third lunar mission, Chandrayaan-3, embarked on its journey, carrying the hopes and aspirations of the entire nation. Covering a vast distance of over 3,00,000 km, the Chandrayaan-3 is expected to reach the Moon in the coming weeks, where its scientific instruments will diligently study the lunar surface, further enriching our understanding of our celestial neighbour.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi described the successful launch of Chandrayaan-3 as a manifestation of India's collective dreams and ambitions in the field of space exploration and stated that this historic day would be etched in golden letters in the annals of space exploration. Upon accomplishing the soft landing of Chandrayaan-3, India would join the ranks of the world's few countries to have this remarkable feat.

The Prime Minister proudly acknowledged that India owes its remarkable progress in the space sector to the brilliant contributions of its scientists. Indeed, the country has an

India began historic space journey with the successful launch of Chandrayaan-3. My heartiest congratulations to the scientists of ISRO. Their relentless pursuit has set India on a path to script a remarkable space journey for generations.

**-Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation**

illustrious history in space exploration, with Chandrayaan-1 leading the way as a pioneer in global lunar missions. The mission was instrumental in confirming the presence of water molecules on the Moon, a groundbreaking discovery published in over 200 scientific publications worldwide.

Prior to Chandrayaan-1, the Moon was widely regarded as a dry, geologically inactive, and uninhabited celestial body. However, the mission's findings transformed this perception, revealing a dynamic and geologically active celestial entity harbouring water and ice beneath its surface. This revelation has opened up possibilities for potential lunar habitation in the future.

Chandrayaan-2, another milestone mission, made significant strides in lunar exploration. Its orbiter detected the presence of chromium, manganese, and sodium for the first time using remote sensing technology. Additionally, Chandrayaan-2 contributed valuable insights into the evolution of the Moon. The mission's noteworthy scientific achievements include creating the first global map of lunar sodium, providing advanced information on crater size distribution, and detecting water and ice on the lunar surface using the IIRS instrument. These remarkable outcomes have been documented in approximately 50 publications. ■

# Bolstering Ties Prime Minister Modi's Visit to France and UAE

Prime Minister conferred with the  
"Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour"

## *Bureau*

**P** rime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi was bestowed with the esteemed 'Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour' by French President, Emmanuel Macron, the highest honour in France for military or civilian achievements during his recent visit to Paris on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2023. This accolade holds special significance as Prime Minister, Shri Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to be awarded with this prestigious honour.

The Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour is a distinction previously awarded to distinguished global personalities, including former South African President, Nelson Mandela, the then Prince of Wales, King Charles, and former German Chancellor, Angela Merkel.

This remarkable recognition from France adds to the growing list of top international awards and honours received by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi from various countries, highlighting his significant contributions on the global stage. These notable accolades include the Order of the Nile bestowed by Egypt in June 2023, the Companion of the Order of Logohu awarded by Papua New Guinea in May 2023, the Companion of the Order of Fiji conferred by Fiji in May 2023, the Ebaki Award presented by the Republic of Palau in May 2023 and many other prestigious awards.

Celebrating 25 years of the India-France Strategic Partnership, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's visit to France showcased a remarkable blend of trust, friendship and bilateral cooperation between the two nations. The momentous visit which began on 13<sup>th</sup> July was marked by warm gestures, landmark agreements, and a renewed commitment to nurturing a comprehensive strategic partnership.

As the Guest of Honour at the Bastille Day Parade on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, PM Modi's presence showcased the depth and significance of the partnership. During the Bastille Day Parade, the presence of a 241-member tri-service Indian armed forces contingent, led by a military band, added a special flavour to the celebrations. The joint statement released after the summit between PM Shri Narendra Modi and President Macron reverberated with



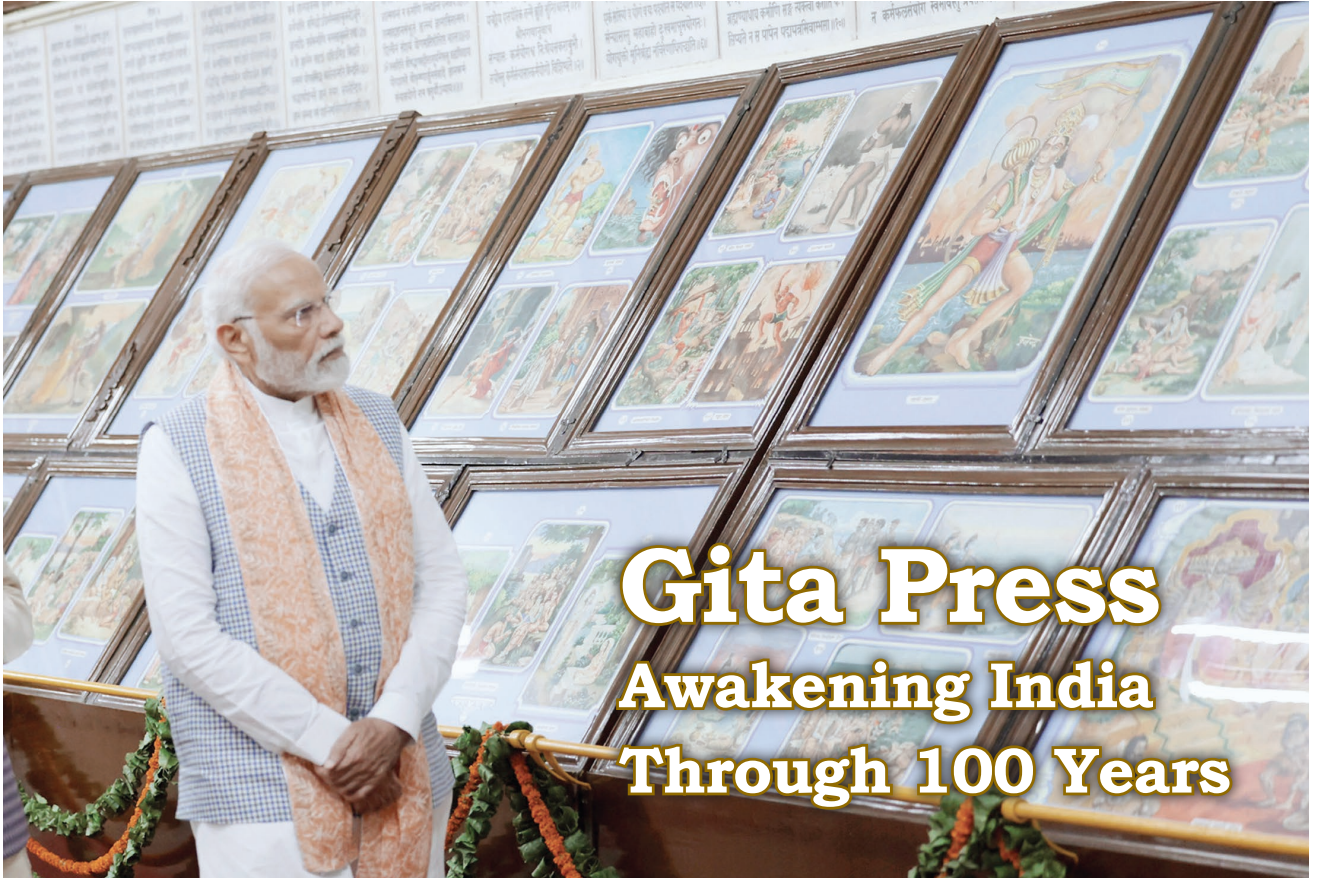
shared values and mutual trust. Both leaders emphasized their unwavering commitment to international law, sovereignty, and strategic autonomy, while endorsing the quest for a stable multipolar world.

From France, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi embarked on a visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 15<sup>th</sup> July, marking yet another milestone in the growing strategic partnership between the two Asian nations. Incidentally, this was the fifth visit of PM Modi to the Gulf country in the past eight years, highlighting the increasing importance of the India-UAE relationship.

Upon arrival in Abu Dhabi, PM Shri Modi received a ceremonial welcome and a guard of honour. The visit witnessed the signing of several key agreements, demonstrating the commitment of both nations towards fostering cooperation in diverse fields.

Since PM Modi's visit to the UAE in 2015, which marked the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister in 34 years, the India-UAE relationship has traversed a significant journey. This was followed by the visit of Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to India in 2016, then in 2017, when he was the chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations.

In 2017, the two nations had enhanced their relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership, reflecting their shared desire to deepen cooperation across multiple sectors. ■



## Gita Press Awakening India Through 100 Years

### Bureau



On 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, Gita Press marked its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Commemorating this milestone, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi extolled the institution's profound spiritual impact, remarking on its role as a guiding light for humanity ever since it was established in 1923. Celebrating this milestone, the government has awarded Gita Press the prestigious Gandhi Peace Prize.

The timing of Gita Press's centenary, coinciding with India's 75<sup>th</sup> year of independence, holds a deeper significance. Before 1947, India witnessed a renaissance, as various institutions strove to awaken the nation's soul. Gita Press emerged as a crucial pillar in preparing India to break free from the shackles of colonialism, restoring knowledge and heritage that had been threatened by centuries of foreign invasions and colonial rule. The pressing need for accessible literature led Gita Press to publish numerous texts, including revered scriptures like the Bhagavad Gita and the Ramayana.

Throughout India's eternal journey, it faced numerous challenges, yet the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita inspired confidence, with its timeless message, *Karmanyewadhikaraste ma faleshu kadachana*. Over the last century, Gita Press has published countless books, serving as a unifying force for India and strengthening the nation's solidarity. With 20 branches across the country



Gita Press is not just a printing press but a living faith. The spiritual light that lit up in the form of Gita Press in 1923 has become the guiding light of the entire humanity today.

**-Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister**



and stalls at railway stations, it has spread its reach to every nook and corner, offering publications in 15 languages and disseminating the essence of India's rich cultural heritage.

Gita Press embodies the spirit of *Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat*, connecting people from diverse backgrounds through its vast array of literature. Mahatma Gandhi himself shared an emotional connection with Gita Press, contributing to their magazine, 'Kalyan Patrika', and even advising against publishing advertisements in it, a tradition still upheld with utmost reverence.

As Gita Press completes a century of service to the nation and humanity, it continues to illuminate hearts and minds, fostering a stronger and united India for generations to come. ■

# Government Steps up Disaster Preparedness

## Bureau

**T**he Central government's disaster preparedness efforts are a reflection of its commitment to the safety and security of its citizens. The government is taking all necessary steps to mitigate the impact of natural disasters and to ensure that affected people receive necessary assistance.

It became more evident in the wake of the recent floods, cloudbursts, and landslides in Himachal Pradesh. The government deployed 11 teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) along with rescue boats and other necessary equipments. The Central Armed Police Forces were also pressed into service, and two Mi-17V5 helicopters were deployed for evacuation missions.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, approved the release of ₹180.40 crore in advance for the year 2023-24 as interim relief to Himachal Pradesh towards the second instalment of the Central share of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). The first instalment of central share of ₹180.40 crore was released to Himachal Pradesh on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, for relief measures of immediate nature to affected people.

Apart from the assistance provided to Himachal Pradesh, the Central government has also released ₹6,194.40 crore to 19 state governments under the SDRF. This amount includes ₹1,209.60 crore as central share of SDRF to four states (Chhattisgarh, Meghalaya, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh) for the year 2022-23 and ₹4,984.80 crores to 15 states (Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura) for the year 2023-24.

The Central government has also constituted Inter Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) to monitor the relief operations being carried out by the state government of Himachal Pradesh. The IMCTs started their field tour on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2023.

The Union government's efforts to step up disaster preparedness are commendable. The release of funds and the deployment of resources will help states to deal with natural disasters. The IMCTs will also help to ensure that all relief operations are being carried out efficiently.

The Union government under the leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has already released ₹10,031.20 crore as central share of SDRF to 27 states during the year 2023-24. Based on the recommendations of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission, the Central government



**The Union government has taken several measures to step up disaster preparedness efforts in the country. Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah has approved the release of ₹6,194.40 crore to 19 state governments under the State Disaster Response Fund. As part of these efforts, he also approved the release of ₹180.40 crore to the state government of Himachal Pradesh under the SDRF.**

has allocated ₹1,28,122.40 crore for SDRF for the years 2021-22 to 2025-26. ■

# Fire Services get ₹5,000 crore boost

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Ministry of Home Affairs is taking proactive measures to minimize losses during disasters

## Bureau

**U**nder the able guidance of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, several major initiatives are being taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs to make India disaster resilient. The Central government is strengthening the Disaster Risk Reduction System in India and aims to ensure “zero deaths” and minimum loss of property during catastrophes and disasters.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has introduced a new “Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States” with a budget of ₹5,000 crore. Out of this total allocation, ₹500 crore has been specifically set aside to incentivize states based on their efforts in implementing legal and infrastructure-based reforms in their fire services departments. This scheme was officially launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and was inaugurated by Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah during a meeting with state ministers of disaster management in New Delhi on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2023. The focus is on expanding and modernizing fire services at the state level by utilizing the preparedness and capacity-building funding window under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). Central Government had circulated a “Model Bill to Provide for the Maintenance of Fire and Emergency Service for the State” to all the States / Union Territories on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 for suitable revision in their respective Fire Service Rules / Regulations. To encourage active participation and commitment from the states, the concerned state governments will need to contribute 25% of the total

project cost. However, states falling in the north-eastern and Himalayan regions will have to make a contribution of only 10% from their budgetary resources. The scheme emphasizes prioritizing the expansion and modernization of fire services to enhance their capabilities and responsiveness. It aims to create a disaster-resilient fire fighting force that can efficiently handle emergencies and protect lives and property. However, the Home Ministry has made it clear that there will be no carry-forward of liabilities beyond the award period for projects sanctioned against the earmarked allocation. This measure ensures timely implementation and completion of the projects under the scheme.

Overall, the scheme for the modernization of fire

**Aiming to strengthen the fire services at the state level, and thereby ensuring better response to disaster situations and saving precious lives, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has launched a comprehensive scheme worth ₹5,000 crore to modernize and expand fire services in states across the country. The initiative aims to bolster the preparedness and capacity-building component of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).**

services demonstrates the government's commitment to strengthen disaster response and preparedness capabilities at the state level, making India more resilient in the face of disasters and emergencies. ■

# CISF gets Aviation Security Control Center

## Bureau

**I**n a bid to enhance the aviation security infrastructure in India, the Union Minister for Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, inaugurated the state-of-the-art Aviation Security Control Center (ASCC) of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at the Mahipalpur campus in New Delhi on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2023. This cutting-edge facility is designed to provide a centralized platform for effective management and monitoring of aviation security across various airports in the country. The event witnessed the presence of Director General, CISF, Shri Sheel Vardhan Singh, and several other senior officers of the force.

The aviation sector stands as one of the most dynamic domains and with the growing importance of the sector in India's economy, it becomes significant to ensure the safety and security of passengers, aircraft, and critical infrastructure.

The CISF has also excelled in fortifying security arrangements in the aviation sector, in addition to establishing itself as a key player in internal security. In response to the ever-evolving challenges in aviation security, the CISF has taken a proactive approach by establishing the Aviation Security Control Center and the Aviation Security Technology Lab at the Mahipalpur Campus in New Delhi. The Center has four major components including Communication and Control Centre, Incident Management Centre, Aviation Research Centre and Data Centre.

These endeavours align with the vision of transforming the Airport Sector Headquarters from a traditional event-based information collection center to a real-time data analytics hub for prompt and efficient response to security operations at



airports. The establishment of the Aviation Security Control Center marks a significant step towards bolstering India's aviation security apparatus. With the continued proactive measures and dynamic adaptation, the CISF is poised to uphold its reputation as a force to be reckoned with in safeguarding the aviation sector and ensuring safety and well-being of all travellers. ■

## Review meeting for the safety of air passengers

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, recently convened a review meeting with Union Civil Aviation Minister, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia. The meeting involved discussions with key stakeholders such as the Airports Authority of India, Central Industrial Security Force, Border Security Force, and the Bureau of Immigration. The government's focus lies in ensuring seamless travel for air passengers during the upcoming peak travel season. With the country experiencing a rapid surge in both domestic and international mobility, the primary objective of the meeting was to address the evolving requirements associated with this growth. Emphasizing the significance of quick, secure, and convenient travel experiences for passengers, the officials were suggested to develop and implement high standards for airport operations. The Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Civil Aviation, and other relevant agencies have already taken numerous proactive steps toward expanding facilities and infrastructure at major airports. ■



# Dialogue and Outreach

## Bureau



On 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, Australian Agriculture, Disaster & Emergency Management Minister Senator Mr. Murray Watt met with Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai at the Union Home Ministry office in New Delhi. The two discussed issues

**The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has always prioritized the safety of every individual. All ministers communicate with the public to ensure that their interests are rightly represented. Even when meeting with representatives of other countries, the safety of every Indian living there is a topic of discussion.**



surrounding disaster management and reiterated their shared commitment to exchanging information in this regard.

Shri Rai said that the bilateral relations between India and Australia have further strengthened under the leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. He added that the meeting with Watt was a continuation of the Prime Minister's commitment to strengthen ties with Australia. The meeting also discussed a wide range of issues of common interest, including agriculture, fisheries, and emergency management.

● The Ministry of Home Affairs made intensive preparations for the two-day G20 conference on cybersecurity on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2023. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Ajay Mishra held review meetings with departmental officers to ensure that all preparations were in place.

On 4<sup>th</sup> July, Shri Mishra presided over one such meeting.



Special Secretary (Internal Security), Smt. Sivagami Sundari Nanda gave a presentation on the progress of the preparations. The meeting concluded with Shri Mishra issuing instructions to officers to ensure that the conference is a success.

● At the concluding session of the two-day G20 conference, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Ajay Mishra, reemphasized India's commitment to enhance cybersecurity and highlighted the importance of global collaboration to tackle cyber crimes. Considering that these crimes know no borders, it is crucial to establish standardized laws among all nations to effectively combat digital threats. These threats include ransomware attacks, the sale of sensitive personal data, online harassment, child abuse, and the spread of fake news and misinformation through toolkits.

India has urged the international community to join forces and take action based on expert recommendations to fulfil Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's vision of a cyber-safe world. The central government is always alert against violence and is working continuously to prevent it.

● Recently, Panchayat elections were held in West Bengal, during which there were reports of violence in many areas. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nisith Pramanik met and consoled the affected people. ■





# Reviews and Resolutions

## Bureau

**T**he Union Home Secretary, Mr. Ajay Kumar Bhalla reviewed the progress of major hydro-power projects in Jammu and Kashmir executed by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) and another through a joint venture between NHPC and the Government of J&K. The meeting was attended by the CMD, NHPC and senior officials of the J&K government. During recent months, projects like Ratle, Kiru and Kwar have seen good progress. In the next three years, around 3,500 MW hydropower capacity will be added in Jammu and Kashmir.

- The Union Home Secretary, Mr. Bhalla on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 reviewed the LWE scenario with the Chief Secretaries and DGSP of the affected States. The DGs of CAPFs along with senior officers from line ministries were also present. The Home Secretary was apprised about the improvement in the LWE situation and the status of developmental projects in LWE affected districts. He complimented the security forces, state authorities and other line ministries for the steps taken to combat LWE and urged them to further expedite the progress of developmental projects and ensure focused deployment of resources.
- The Union Home Secretary, Mr. Bhalla also held a meeting with the Secretary of Ayush, the DGs of the CAPFs,



**The outgoing Australian High Commissioner to India, Mr. Barry O'Farrell called on Union Home Secretary Mr. Ajay Kumar Bhalla. The Union Home Secretary presented him with a memento as a farewell gift.**

**The Union Home Secretary Mr. Ajay Kumar Bhalla held a series of meetings to review the progress of major hydropower projects in Jammu and Kashmir, took an update on the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) scenario, and deliberated on the benefits of yoga for CAPFs, Assam Rifles, and NSG personnel.**

Assam Rifles, and the NSG on 3<sup>rd</sup> July to discuss the benefits of yoga for the forces. The meeting deliberated upon specific yoga protocols for troops deployed in different climatic conditions and topographic locations, including high altitudes, deserts, tropics, and the plains. A core team of master trainers will be trained by the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) to impart training in yoga to these personnel. The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology will develop research protocols to evaluate the efficacy of these yoga protocols. Medical officers, psychiatrists, clinical

psychologists, and physiologists will also be sensitized and trained on the yoga modules.

- On 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 the Union Home Secretary held a meeting with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and other stakeholders to consider a proposal for financial assistance from the earmarked allocation under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission for catalytic assistance to 12 of the most drought-prone states in formulating drought mitigation plans. The meeting agreed in-principle to circulate the template prepared by NDMA to facilitate state governments in submitting their respective proposals. The template will provide a framework for state governments to submit their proposals and will help to ensure that the assistance is used effectively.
- Mr. Barry O'Farrell, AO, High Commissioner of Australia to India, called on the Union Home Secretary, Mr. Bhalla to bid farewell as the former's tenure in India ended. He expressed his gratitude for the MHA's active engagement and cooperation and acknowledged its key role in the finalization of the Migration and Mobility Partnership Arrangement (MMPA). The Home Secretary presented him with a memento on this occasion. ■



Ashwini Vaishnav\*

# Democratize Technology, Secure Cyberspace: Digital Vision of India

**I**n 2015, our esteemed Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, launched the Digital India Mission - a visionary initiative that sought to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. This ambitious mission encompassed multiple objectives, with one pivotal goal standing out: democratizing technology. In a world where technology has often been monopolized by a few tech giants, the vision was to break these barriers and make technology accessible to all, regardless of their socio-economic status. It was an idea rooted in the belief that technology should not be the privilege of a select few, but a powerful tool to uplift society as a whole.

At the core of the Digital India Mission was a profound understanding that technology should further touch every aspect of a common citizen's life in a positive way. It should be a means to empower the masses and bridge the digital divide that has long hindered progress in many developing countries. The prevailing model of technology ownership, dominated by a handful of companies, was not conducive to the rapid societal transformation that India envisioned. Therefore, India adopted an alternate approach - a model of public-private partnership where the government, private sector, and citizens worked together for the greater good. This meant the core platform of major digital technology will be developed using public fund.

An example of the transformational journey through public-private partnership is the development of a robust platform called Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The UPI, built using public funds, became the heart of India's payment system. Its open access and interoperability allowed seamless transactions across various banks, start-ups, and businesses. More than 350 million Indians joined this platform. The result was the establishment of a payment system that processes about USD 2 Trillion worth of transactions seamlessly each year, with an average inter-account transaction settlement time of just less than 2 seconds. This showcased the power of public private partnership. This inclusive approach democratized access to financial services, with millions of people, including the poorest of the poor, gaining the ability to participate in the digital economy.

Building on this success, similar platforms were created for e-commerce, such as the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). During the Covid-19 pandemic, we used platform Co-Win. The government-developed Co-WIN platform was yet another testament to the strength of public-private partnership. The government created the platform, and it was joined by pharmacy companies, logistics supply chains, clinics and hospitals, cold chain companies and airlines also joined along with the people, resulting in a countrywide access link. Leveraging this platform, millions of COVID-19 vaccine doses were administered with remarkable efficiency, saving countless lives and fostering

hope during a global crisis. The entire scheduling for 1.4 billion people was done so successfully that within short period of 18 months more than 2 billion doses of vaccines were administered successfully without any flaw.

After the resolute vision for democratizing technology, comes strong commitment to reduce the digital divide. Our Prime Minister articulated a clear mandate to reduce the digital divide by ensuring that every citizen, irrespective of their geographical location, should have access to high-quality internet connectivity. While approximately 840-850 million people already had internet access, the pressing need to expand this access was recognized. As part of the BharatNet Programme, the goal is to reduce the digital divide to zero, and to ensure that every household in India would have access to reliable 4G, 5G, and broadband coverage.

While we are trying our best to fill in the gap in the digital divide, the other challenge is that of cyber security. Cyber threats are complex, boundaryless, and constantly evolving, necessitating agile and collaborative responses. The advent of artificial intelligence (AI) has added huge complexity to the cyber security landscape, potentially empowering malicious actors in unprecedented ways. Now as the theme of India's G20 Presidency is "One earth, One family, One future", the challenge of cyber security is also common to all. Thus, a multi-pronged approach is imperative. Mitigating cyber security challenges demands a concerted effort at the national, organizational, and individual levels. Nations must collaborate to develop and implement common solutions to combat cyber-attacks, fostering a global cyber defence network. International cooperation, akin to the efforts in fighting transnational crimes, is essential to safeguarding our interconnected world against cyber threats.

Many new tools would have to be developed to meet this challenge. Recently, some of the tools we developed in India are ready to be shared with other nations of the world because we believe in the philosophy of One Earth, One Family, One Future. For example, in collaboration with banks, various ministries, and state governments, we were able to remove millions of fraudulent accounts that were used for cyber frauds. This was very effective and we are ready to share this experience with other nations. As a matter of fact, we need to treat cyber security with the same seriousness we did with the advent of the automobile and highway networks. When the automobile came and highway networks were created, we established a legal structure and instructional framework to ensure everyone followed a unified approach to walking or driving on one side. Similar efforts must be taken at the global, national, and organizational levels to promote cyber awareness to adhere to cyber security rules, and maintain cyber hygiene. This is crucial to protect our societies and secure our future in a cyber-active world. ■

**\*Union Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology**



On July 1, Union Minister of State for Home, Shri Ajay Mishra launched the Communicable Disease Control Campaign at Lakhimpur Kheri. On this occasion, he reiterated the resolve of every possible effort to prevent communicable diseases and administered the oath in this regard to the people present.

The holy Amarnath Yatra is underway in Jammu and Kashmir. The Central Reserve Police Force is taking care of the safety and convenience of all pilgrims. Recently, the Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force, Dr. S.L. Thaosan visited Jammu and Kashmir. He also interacted with the pilgrims and took their feedback.



The 14<sup>th</sup> NDRF team carried out operation in Manikaran valley of Himachal Pradesh till 15<sup>th</sup> July, rescued 5070 people. Shri Baljinder Singh, Commandant, 14<sup>th</sup> NDRF was leading the operation.

BPR&D's YouTube channel 'Police aur Seva' recently highlighted "Operation Parivartan" of Solapur Police, Maharashtra, led by Ms. Tejaswi Satpute, IPS which was awarded "The Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration".



## भारत के वीर

Tribute to the bravehearts

<https://bharatkeveer.gov.in>

### GUIDELINES

- ◆ You can donate directly to individual braveheart's account (upto max of ₹15 lakhs) or may donate to the Bharat Ke Veer corpus.
- ◆ To ensure maximum coverage, a cap of ₹15 lakhs is envisaged per braveheart and the donor would be alerted if the amount exceeds ₹15 lakhs, so that they can choose to either decrease their contribution or divert part of the contribution to another braveheart's account, or to the Bharat Ke Veer corpus.
- ◆ Bharat Ke Veer corpus would be managed by a committee made up of eminent persons of repute and senior government officials, in equal number, who would decide to disburse the fund equitably to the braveheart families on need basis.



Digital technology works as an element of establishing equality and promoting inclusivity. G20 countries can play a crucial role in advancing research and innovation, especially in the countries of the Global South, leveraging their individual capabilities.

-Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



Bureau of Police Research and Development  
Ministry of Home Affairs, NH-48, Mahipalpur  
New Delhi - 110037