



PRESS RELEASE

Government to unveil National Cyber Security Strategy soon: National Cyber Security Coordinator

- India ranked 10th amongst 194 nations in the Global Cyber Security Index 2020
- Cyber security is a global common; No one nation can solve it
- India first nation to create a whitelist instead of a blacklist for telecom equipment

New Delhi, July 2, 2021: The government is expected to release a new cybersecurity strategy this year, Lt. Gen. (Dr) Rajesh Pant, National Cybersecurity Coordinator, Prime Minister's Office, Government of India, said on Friday at an event organized by Public Affairs Forum of India. He added that the strategy would holistically cover the entire ecosystem of cyber space in India. "The vision of this strategy is to ensure safe, secure, resilient, vibrant, and trusted cyber space," he said. The new strategy would serve as a guideline to tackle every aspect, whether it is governance or data as a national resource, or building indigenous capabilities or cyber audit, to name a few. "There are about 80 odd deliverables coming out of this new strategy," he added.

The theme of the PAFI Dialogue was 'Cyber Security in the New Normal.'

Lt. Gen. Pant said, "Pandemic has shot up the cyber-crimes in India by 500% and India is one of the top 3 attacked countries in the world as far as cyber-attacks are concerned." There are emerging threats from the proliferation of new technologies like drones and IoT devices. To ensure a safe, secure and trusted cyberspace, the government has taken a series of initiatives.

"Cybercrimes are increasing. Attribution is the difficult part and now (cyber criminals) they have started taking advantage of dark web. Pandemic gave the perfect storm to the cyber criminals.", he added.

Highlighting the Prime Minister's focus on the importance of cyber security, Lt. Gen. said that, "the Government has a good framework in place. From 2013 to 2021, the threat surface has changed... Pandemic and work-from-home has exponentially expanded the threat surface. Cyber security, from the Government of India perspective, has become an essential service... Government is also looking at revising the IT Act, besides the new cyber strategy that is being worked upon."

On the national security narrative of the Telecom sector Mr. Pant said, "While other nations have created a black-list of companies that cannot operate in the country, India is the only nation to create a white-list of telecom companies that are allowed to operate in India. The companies allowed must be a trusted source. We were able to create and launch the [trusted telecom portal](#) during the pandemic and within six months."



Public Affairs Forum of India

Dr. Subho Ray, President, PAFI & President, IAMAI presented opening remarks and Mr. Tanmoy Chakrabarty, Secretary of PAFI & Group Government Affairs Officer, Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd., gave a vote of thanks at the PAFI Dialogue.

Please find the link to the session here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjSXinh4UPo>

About Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI):

Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI), the only platform for corporate/public affairs practitioners in the country, has completed 11 years of work in the field of Public Affairs, Advocacy & Public policy. PAFI (www.pafi.in) has representation from large and medium-sized transnational, Indian and foreign companies. Since its inception, PAFI has been actively promoting transparent Public Affairs, Advocacy & Policymaking. It provides a networking platform and opportunities to exchange views and share experiences between corporates and various stakeholders, through panel discussions, seminars, closed-door dialogues, and the Annual National Forum. For more information, visit: www.pafi.in. (Twitter: @PAFI_India)

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