

## G20 Series #82

### India's G20 Presidency

#### Conference on Crime and Security in the Age of NFTs, AI, and the Metaverse (Gurugram, Haryana– July 13 -14, 2023)

(Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

August 1, 2023

*“Cyber Security has become a weapon of war and is not limited to just digital activity. It has become a matter of national security.”*

[- Prime Minister Narendra Modi](#)

The **first-ever G20 Conference on Crime and Security in the Age of NFTs, AI, and the Metaverse** was held from July 13–14, 2023 in Gurugram, Haryana. Over 900 participants from G20 countries, 9 special invitee countries, International Bodies and technology leaders, and domain experts from India and across the world attended the two-day conference.



The conference was organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs in partnership with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), and other national and international organizations such as Interpol and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The two-day conference began with a Plenary Session on July 13, 2023. G20 members and Invitees participated wholeheartedly in its plenary deliberations on ensuring an open, interoperable, secure, and resilient global digital ecosystem.

This was followed by an Inaugural Session addressed by the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah. The Conference was also attended by the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Ajay Kumar Mishra; Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Shri Rajiv Chandrasekhar; Union Home Secretary, and other dignitaries.

In his address, Shri Amit Shah emphasized the urgent need for cooperation, both at the national and international levels, to build cyber resilience in an increasingly connected world. Union Home Minister said that technology has transcended all conventional geographical, political, and economic boundaries and today, we live in a big global digital village. He said

that although technology is a positive development in bringing human beings, communities, and countries closer, there are also some anti-social elements and global forces, that are using technology to cause economic and social harm to citizens and governments. The Minister added that cybersecurity is no longer confined to digital space but it has become an issue of national security. Therefore, this conference becomes all the more important as it can be an important global initiative towards coordinated action to make the digital world safer for all.



Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation highlighted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has been at the forefront of adopting emerging technologies at the grassroots level and we aim to make modern technology more accessible and affordable to all sections of society. The Home Minister said that

today, 840 million Indians have an online presence, and by 2025 another 400 million Indians will enter the digital world. He said that internet connections in India have increased by 250% in the last 9 years and that the cost per GB of Data has been reduced by 96%. Initiatives for 'digital delivery of services' have transformed India into a '**Digital Nation**' within a decade.

Home Minister also flagged off the **Cyber Volunteer Squads** from 7 premier educational institutions of India. Those specially identified volunteers work to generate cyber awareness in society, identify and report harmful content and render technical assistance for making society cyber-safe. Shri Amit Shah also inaugurated an exhibition and released the Conference Medallion

During the two-day conference, 6 Technical Sessions were organised on the following subjects:

1. **Internet Governance - National Responsibility and Global Commons**
2. **Securing DPI amidst Unprecedented Scale of Digitization: Design, Architecture, Policies & Preparedness**
3. **Extended Reality, Metaverse, and Future of Digital Ownership – Legal and Regulatory Framework**
4. **AI: Challenges Opportunities and Responsible Use**
5. **Connecting the Dots: Challenges of Crypto Currency & Dark Net**
6. **Criminal Use of ICT: Evolving a Framework for International Cooperation**



The first day of the conference focused on forging innovative solutions to combat cybercrime & enhance security. Technical sessions shed light on leveraging the power of the Metaverse, securing Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), and ensuring national responsibility in internet governance.



The Technical sessions held on the second day shed light on critical issues surrounding the use of AI, DarkNet, Cryptocurrency & the criminal use of ICT.

Alongside the conference, there were exhibitions to showcase national and international products and services being offered by organizations/industries working in the ICT space.

The conference concluded on July 14, 2023, with a Valedictory Session, which was addressed by the Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, and MoS for Home Affairs Shri Ajay Mishra Teni.

Key highlights of the [Chair's Summary of the G20 Conference on Crime & Security in the Age of NFTs, AI & Metaverse](#) are as follows:

1. **Coordinate international response**
2. **Develop shared cyber standards**
3. **Protect from online abuse**
4. **Support cyber-skilling**



**References:**

[Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah will address the Inaugural Session of “G20 Conference on Crime and Security in the age of NFTs, AI and Metaverse” in Gurugram, Haryana on 13th July 2023](#)

[Full text of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah’s address at the inaugural session of G20 Conference](#)

[Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah addresses inaugural session of the G-20 Conference on Crime and Security in the Age of NFTs, AI and the Metaverse, in Gurugram, Haryana today](#)

**Further read:**

[G20 Conference on “Crime and Security in the Age of NFTs, AI and Metaverse” Chair’s Summary](#)

**Twitter Links:**

[Rajeev Chandrasekhar’s address at the G20 Conference on Crime and Security in The Age of #NFTs, #AI and #Metaverse](#)

[Creating a secure & resilient digital future for all!](#)

**Video link:**

[Inaugural segment of the G20 Conference in the age of NFTs, AI and Metaverse](#)

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