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Fight Against Cybercrime Gets More Teeth

Joint Coordination Team Set Up, Will Focus On Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh & Rajasthan

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New Delhi: Based on the analysis of complaints on the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal, the Union home ministry is learnt to have constituted joint Cybercrime Coordination Teams. The one focused on the Mewat region, JCCT-I, will cover Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, with Delhi Police as the nodal agency.

Home minister Amit Shah recently expressed concerns over cybercrimes, prompting the officials to swing into action and take concrete steps to curb digital fraud which, officials said, were growing in volume, velocity and variety. "The JCCTs will function under the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (14C) scheme for coordination and collaboration among states in sharing data, modus operandi and details of financial cyber criminals," special commissioner HGS Dhaliwal said.

MEWAT IN FOCUS



A NEW TEAM

- A joint cybercrime coordination team (JCCT-I) to focus on Mewat region has been formed
- Team formed after analysis of complaints on National Cybercrime Reporting Portal and concerns expressed by Union home minister
- Probe reveals criminals from Mewat region involved in majority of cybercrimes, with targets in many states, including Delhi, Haryana, Gujarat, Punjab, TN, etc
- Areas covered by the team are in the jurisdiction of Delhi, Haryana, UP and Rajasthan

COLLABORATION & INFO SHARING

- Delhi Police has been appointed as its nodal agency
- JCCTs to function under the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (14C) of MHA
- JCCTs to coordinate and collaborate for sharing data, modus operandi and details of financial cyber fraudsters
- Regular meetings to be held of stakeholders from police, banks, telecom service providers, department of telecom, serious fraud investigation office (SFIO) and CERT-IN

A conference on Wednesday discussed the sharing of inputs and intelligence about criminals active across the Indian states. Rajesh Kumar, CEO of I4C, and 51 senior officers of different ranks ranging from deputy superintendent of police to additional director general of police from states and Union territories, apart from stakeholders from banks, telecom service providers, department of telecom, serious frauds investigation office and CERT-IN were a part of the conference.

According to officials, JCCT teams from Telangana, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Jharkhand gave detailed presentations on the latest trends in cybercrime, limitations in tackling cybercrime and solutions for tackling the menace with better coordination among all stakeholders.

"The modus operandi of criminals detected during investigations by the participating states have also been shared so that the best practices can be replicated by other states/UTs," said DCP Prashant Gautam. "There were also discussions regarding hotspots and the action plan to mitigate the menace of cybercrime originating from these hotspots." Inputs shared by the states will be compiled and action on these lines will be taken up accordingly.

Of late, a lot of cybercrimes have been found to originate in the Mewat region, leading to the cyber police of different states virtually camping there for investigation. Between January 2022 and 2023, Haryana's cyber police blocked around five lakh SIM cards in the Mewat region that were being used to commit cyber fraud across the country. The SIM cards were being used by 402 criminals located in around 40 villages.

Areas in Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh that constitute the Mewat region are now being called the 'new Jamtara' by cops who have found themselves at the centre of thousands of calls originating from these spots. Blocking of SIM cards doesn't really help because the crooks use a single SIM card for each crime. For every target, they use a separate SIM card, the probe has established. Police need to fight back with a coordinated strike, which JCCT-I is looking to achieve with real-time information and logistics sharing among states, officials added.