

02-09-2022

Cyber Security Exercises

Why in Newspapers?

Recently Computer Emergency Response Team - India (CERT-In) successfully designed and conducted cyber security exercise "Synergy" with 13 countries as part of 'International Counter Ransomware Initiative'.

Quick Issue?

- The exercise was conducted as part of the 'International Counter Ransom ware Initiative- Resilience Working Group', which is led by the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), India.

Historical Background?

- Synergy is a cyber-security exercise, successfully designed and conducted by CERT-In in collaboration with Cyber Security Agency (CSA) of Singapore.
- This exercise scenario was drawn from real-life cyber incidents, in which an incident of domestic (with limited impact) ransom ware escalates into a global cyber security crisis.
- Each State participated as a National Crisis Management Team consisting of people from various government agencies including National CERT/CSIRT, Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA), Ministry of Communications and IT/ICT and Security Agencies.
- **Objective:-** To assess and exchange various strategies and methodologies among member-states and improve them to build a strong network against cyber-attacks aimed at ransom ware and extortion.
- **Theme:-** "Building a strong network to combat ransom ware attacks"
- Ransom ware is a malware designed to deny a user or organization access to files on their computer.
- By encrypting these files and demanding a ransom payment for the decryption key, cyber attackers put organizations in a position where paying a ransom is the easiest and cheapest way to gain access to their files.
- Some variants have added additional functionality - such as data theft - to force ransom ware victims to pay a ransom.
- Computer Emergency Response Team - India (CERT-In) is an organization of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology with the aim of securing the Indian cyber sector.
- It is a nodal agency whose function is to deal with cyber security threats like hacking and phishing.

Other Key Facts?

Government initiative for cyber security

- Cyber Safe India Initiative
- Cyber Sanitation Centre
- Online Cyber Crime Reporting Portal
- Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)
- National Centre for Protection of Critical Information Infrastructure (NCIIPC)
- Information Technology Act, 2000
- National Cyber Security Strategy 2020



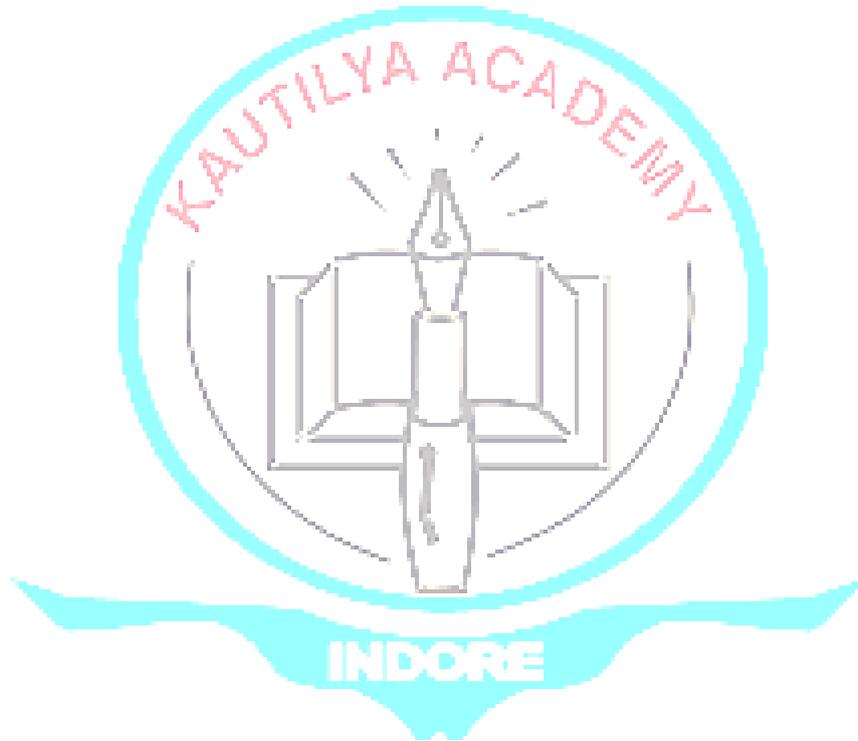
- This organization collects, analyzes and disseminates information on cyber incidents, as well as issues alerts on cyber security incidents.
- CERT-In provides incident prevention and response services as well as security quality management services.

Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

Que. The words 'Wannacry, Petya and InternalBlue', which are sometimes in news recently, are related to which of the following -

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| (a) Exoplanet | (b) Cryptocurrency |
| (c) Cyber Attack | (d) Mini Satellite |

Answer—(c) Cyber attacks



Special Marriage Act, 1954

Why in Newspapers?

The Supreme Court dismissed a writ petition challenging the provisions of the Special Marriage Act (SMA), 1954, which required couples to give a notice to declare their intention to marry 30 days before their marriage.

Quick Issue?

- **Article 21:** This provision in the Act violates the right to privacy of the parties.
- **Article 14:** The requirement violates the right to equality under Article 14 of the Constitution as no other law prescribes such a requirement.

Historical Background?

- **Section 5 of the SMA:** Under this, the married couple has to give notice to the marriage officer 30 days before the date of marriage.
- **Section 6:** This requires the information to be entered in the Marriage Information Book maintained by the Marriage Officer, which may be "observed by any person who wishes to inspect it."
- **Section 7 :** It provides for the procedure for making objection as if either party having a spouse living, is unable to consent by reason of "unsoundness of mind" or is suffering from mental disorder resulting in the person's marriage or procreation. ineligible for
- **Section 8:** It specifies the process of inquiry to be done after submission of objection.
- SC dismissed the writ petition on the ground that the petitioner (35-year-old Athira Sujatha) was no longer an aggrieved party as she had already solemnized her marriage under the SMA.
- **Haryana:** The Haryana government has set 16 pre-requisites that ask couples to issue notices in a newspaper and send such notices to their parents.
- **No Objection Certificate:** In some states, couples are required to obtain a No Objection Certificate from their parents.
- **Maharashtra:** Maharashtra Registration and Ticketing Department publicly shares the details of couples getting married under SMA on its website.
- **Love Jihad Act:** 11 states passed anti-conversion laws. Example: Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh etc.
- **Harassment by anti-social elements:** Public notices have been used by anti-social elements to harass married couples.
- **Incompetence of the authorities:** There are many instances where the marriage authorities have gone beyond the law to send such notices to the parents of the couple.

Other Key Facts?

Special Marriage Act

- SMA is a law that allows marriages without going through any religious customs or rituals.
- People of different castes or religions or states get married under SMA in which marriage is done through registration.
- However, due to the protest of the farmers, the government had to repeal this law.

