Modi: Keep terror out of cyberspace

'$10 bn saved in subsidies as JAM plugged leakages'

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New Delhi: Digital space should not become a playground for the dark forces of terrorism and radicalisation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday, while stressing the need for information sharing and coordination among security agencies to counter the changing landscape.

"We need to ensure that vulnerable sections of our society do not fall prey to the evil designs of cyber criminals. Alertness towards cyber-security concerns should become a way of life. Nations must also take a responsibility to ensure that digital space does not become a playground for the dark forces of terrorism and radicalisation," he said while speaking at the inaugural session at the Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) 2017.

Talking about the benefits of using technology in giving out government benefits, the Prime Minister said, "Use of JAM trinity of Jan Dhan accounts, mobile numbers and Aadhaar has helped save $10 billion in subsidies by plugging leakages."

Keep terror out of cyberspace, urges PM Modi

From p1

"The term hacking may have acquired an exciting, even if dubious, overtone. We need to ensure that cyber protection becomes an attractive and viable career option".

GCCS, a two day event, started on Thursday and is being attended by delegates from 130 countries. The fifth edition is being held in India for the first time with a theme – 'Cyber for All: A Secure and Inclusive Cyberspace for Sustainable Development'.

"The quest for an open and accessible Internet often leads to vulnerability. Stories of hacking and defacement of websites are the tip of the iceberg. They suggest that cyber attacks are a significant threat, especially in the democratic world," he said.

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"We can walk the fine balance between privacy and openness on one hand, and national security on the other. Together, we can overcome the differences between global and open systems on one hand, and nation-specific legal requirements, on the other," he said.

The Internet is inclusive, not exclusive. It offers equity of access, and equality of opportunity. Today's discourse is being shaped by Facebookers, Tweeples, and Instagrammers. Social media platforms are making cyberspace participative for all. "This transition, to a blend of expertise and experience, is the contribution of the cyber world. The Internet has become the ideal platform for youngsters to showcase their creativity, capability and capacity - be it an insightful blog, a beautiful musical rendition, artwork, or theatre... the sky is the limit," Modi said.

"In India, we give primacy to the human face of technology, and are using it to improve "ease of living." "Digital India is the world's largest, technology-led transformative programme to avail digital services. We are using mobile power or M-power to empower our citizens."

Sri Lankan PM Ranil Wickremesinghe, also present at the session, said, "We are all aware that the exponential growth of the Internet and digitisation and access to information and communication technologies have posed additional challenges to human society at large."

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