

Regarding Cybersecurity of AI-enabled CCTV & surveillance for Nashik Kumbh Mela 2027; demand for NCIIPC audit, penetration testing and India-based servers

SHRI RAJABHAU PARAG PRAKASH WAJE (NASHIK): Thank you, hon. Chairperson, Madam. I wish to draw the attention the Government to a serious national security concern regarding the AI-enabled CCTV and traffic surveillance being installed in Nashik city ahead of the Kumbh Mela, 2027. The proposed system includes facial recognition, automatic number plate recognition, AI-based analytics, and centralised command and control integration. While these technologies are useful for policing and traffic management, they also create a highly sensitive surveillance infrastructure. If such systems are compromised through cyber inclusion and unauthorised access, they could expose real-time information about crowd movement, security deployment, VVIP roads. This concern becomes critical as millions of pilgrims, saints and international visitors will gather during the Kumbh Mela, along with the presence of VVIPs and foreign dignitaries. Any breach or manipulation of surveillance feeds could pose serious threats to public safety and national security.

Therefore, I urge the Government to immediately mandate a national-level cyber security audit of the entire surveillance network in Nashik by agencies, such as NCIIPC. Conduct independent penetration testing; ensure that all data servers are securely located within India; prohibit vulnerable foreign components in critical systems, and stabilise a dedicated cyber monitoring mechanism under the Ministry of Home Affairs for the Mela. Proactive intervention today will ensure that the surveillance system strengthened security, rather than becoming a vulnerability during such a nationally significant event. Thank you, Madam.

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