

Times Secure India Summit 2025: Ram Nath Kovind, 14th President of India, Calls Civilian Security the Bedrock of a Resilient Bharat

On 10th September, 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, the Times Secure India Summit 2025 opened on a historic note with the inaugural address of Ram Nath Kovind, 14th President of India. In his remarks, Ram Nath Kovind underscored a foundational truth: "Prosperity without protection is fragile. Security is indeed the bedrock upon which India's future must rise."

The address set the tone for the summit by expanding the definition of national security beyond borders and armed forces to include the civilian security ecosystem — the vast network of private security professionals, fire-fighters, cyber experts, and frontline responders who safeguard the lifelines of India's society and economy.

Ram Nath Kovind, highlighted how modern threats are no longer confined to battlefields or crime scenes. Cyberattacks, industrial mishaps, infrastructure failures, fires, and natural disasters have the power to paralyse communities and disrupt economic activity. In this context, he described civilian security professionals as "front-line defenders of the systems and institutions that sustain our daily life," ensuring hospitals, power plants, transport networks, and digital infrastructure remain functional even under stress.

Drawing attention to the scale of India's civilian protection workforce



with more than 1 crore security guards, 3 lakh fire-fighters, and 4 lakh cybersecurity professionals, the 14th President of India, urged continued investment in skilling, technology adoption, and research. "Our strength must be advanced further. We must deepen research and development, expand skilling programmes, and in-

tegrate advanced technology to elevate our capabilities even higher," he said.

He also celebrated India's achievements in defence and space as symbols of indigenous innovations were designed to be rugged, scalable, and globally competitive. Ram Nath Kovind called upon India to take its place as a global exporter of reliable, affordable security solutions, anchored not in dominance but in dignity and shared values.

In closing, the former President of India, commended the Secure India Awards, launched alongside the summit, as a fitting tribute to the bravery, innovation, and commitment of professionals in the security, safety, and cybersecurity ecosystem. "Let the awardees inspire all of us," he urged, as he congratulated those recognised for their service and dedication.

The inaugural address reinforced the summit's core message: that a safe and resilient Bharat requires both military strength and a fortified civilian ecosystem, united in purpose and innovation, to secure the nation's future.



Times Secure India Awards 2025 - Honouring the Guardians of a Safer Nation

The Times Secure India Awards 2025 at Bharat Mandapam celebrated distinction and bravery across the nation's security landscape. From corporate leaders in fire safety and cybersecurity to frontline heroes, the awards recognised those who strengthen India's resilience and protection ecosystem.

A defining highlight was the honouring of the Bravest Security Guard and Bravest Firefighter of the Year, each awarded INR 5 lakhs. Finalists in these categories were also supported with family health insurance and educational sponsorships for their children, ensuring their courage created lasting security for their families.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The evaluation process for the Times Secure India Awards was conducted independently by a Technical Committee constituted by IIRIS Consulting Pvt. Ltd. Nominations were received through multiple channels, including self-nominations and partner recommendations. Each nomination was assessed on pre-defined parameters, ensuring transparency, merit, and credibility in every recognition. The process involved independent evaluation, structured scoring, and

collective deliberation by the Jury to arrive at the final results. Note: Present survey has been exclusively conducted by an independent Research Agency named IIRIS Consulting Pvt. Ltd. using stated methodology for arriving at given results. The publication house and its affiliates/employees/authorized representatives/group companies are not responsible/liable for the said results. Readers are advised to take an informed decision before acting upon the survey results.

List of Winners is as below

SAFE & SECURE EXCELLENCE AWARDS	
Secure Corporate Campus of the Year	Zepto HQ
Secure Manufacturing Facility of the Year	Tata Power, Trombay
Secure Hotel Property of the Year	The Oberoi Hotel, Gurugram
Secure Shopping Mall of the Year	Palladium Mall, Mumbai
Secure Training & Awareness Initiative of the Year	ICISSM
Made in India - Innovation Security Product	CP Plus for CP-UNP-F4521L30-DPQ
Fire Safety Excellence Awards	
Fire-Safe Corporate Campus of the Year	Bharat Diamond Bourse
Fire-Safe Manufacturing Facility of the Year	Welspun Corp Ltd., Gujarat
Fire-Safe Hotel Property of the Year	Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Delhi
Fire-Safe Shopping Mall of the Year	Phoenix Market City, Bengaluru
Fire Safety Initiative of the Year	National Institute of Safety Health and Environment (NISHE)
Made in India- Innovative Fire Safety Product	Ambtronics Engineers Private Limited for FLD-3311-FLP
Cyber & InfoSec Excellence Awards	
Cybersecurity Service Provider of the Year	Segrite
Secure IoT Solution of the Year	CP Plus for CP-Z43Q
Cybersecurity Training & Awareness Initiative of the Year	Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC)
Cybersecurity Product of the Year	INDUSPACE for AppTrana
Brave Awards	
Peregrine Bravest Security Guard of the Year	Ajay Singh
Brave Security Guard of the Year	Dharmendra Kumar Mishra
Brave Security Guard of the Year	Kalpna Bartaula
Brave Security Guard of the Year	Sanjay Chauhan
Brave Security Guard of the Year	Sachin Yadav
Bravest Firefighter of the Year	Santosh Raosahab Ingole
Brave Firefighter of the Year	Krishnat Ramchandra Yadav
Brave Firefighter of the Year	Sunil Suresh Desale
Brave Firefighter of the Year	Preetam
Brave Firefighter of the Year	Yogesh Hanmant Kondawar



"We are truly proud to be part of the Secure India Awards 2025 - a platform that celebrates courage and innovation in the field of safety and security. Security is not just about systems or protocols, it is about people, preparedness and responsibility. Seeing these initiatives take shape with such transparency makes the awards even more meaningful. This association gives us immense pride, as it honours the unsung heroes and innovators who aim to make India safer every day."

Anuj Rajain, Global Chief Strategy Officer, Tenon Group



"These awards are a powerful tribute to the unsung heroes of our nation. ManipalCigna is honoured to support them by ensuring their bravery also brings security to their loved ones."

Sameer Bhatnagar, Chief Compliance and Governance Officer, General Counsel & Head - Secretariat, ManipalCigna Health Insurance Company Ltd.

India's Security Reality Check: Cutting Through Noise and Narratives



The opening panel at the Times Secure India Summit 2025 examined the country's urgent security challenges under the theme "India's Security Reality Check: Cutting Through Noise and Narratives." Moderated by Capt Gurbawan Singh (Retd.), the discussion moved beyond routine assessments to highlight how India must confront both internal vulnerabilities and external turbulence.

The panel agreed that the security landscape has changed dramatically, with new threats arising faster than traditional responses can keep pace. Dr Vikram Singh, Former DGP of Uttar Pradesh, pointed to the convergence of narco-terrorism, illegal mi-

gration and cybercrime as three interconnected dangers that directly affect ordinary citizens. His warning was blunt: "The enemy is not at the gates, the enemy has entered inside."

On the strategic front, Maj Gen G. D. Bakshi (Retd.) stressed that instability in South Asia and shifting global power equations leave India little room for complacency. Drawing parallels with 1971, he argued that the future will demand both resilience and pre-emptive resolve. "If you wait to be hit, you are going to be the loser," he said.

Other speakers, including Anju Gupta, Maj Manjit Rajain (Retd.), and Capt Shakil Ahmed (Retd.), broad-

ened the lens. They highlighted the ripple effects of global conflicts, the scale of India's 70-million-strong private security workforce, and the role of corporate resilience in safeguarding supply chains and critical infrastructure.

The overarching takeaway was clear: National security today cannot be the sole responsibility of the state. It requires an integrated approach where government, private security and corporate India work in tandem. As Capt. Gurbawan noted, security must be seen not as a one-time effort but as a continuous national responsibility.

Key Contributors to TSIS 2025

The Times Secure India Summit 2025 was powered by organisations whose dedication went beyond sponsorship. Their involvement shaped dialogue, recognised heroes, and reinforced India's vision of a secure and resilient future.



Enabled the Summit's flagship presence and contributed to knowledge sessions. With proven expertise in workplace security and resilience, KWorks has pioneered integrated facility and risk solutions across India and the Middle East.



Brought national stature to the event. Its endorsement linked TSIS 2025 with India's industrial leadership, ensuring that security priorities are woven into economic and business growth.



Elevated the Summit with its government and digital governance expertise. NISG's role reinforced the importance of aligning cybersecurity and policy frameworks with India's mission of Viksit Bharat.



Stepped in to sponsor education for all finalists of the Brave Security Guards and Brave Fire-fighters categories, ensuring their families benefit from long-term opportunities.



Sponsored the Brave Security Guards award segment and added to the knowledge sessions, showing commitment to both recognition and dialogue in the security ecosystem.



Supported panel discussions that highlighted operational efficiency in the security sector, reinforcing industry-level best practices.



Contributed to showcases and thought leadership on enterprise resilience, emphasising risk awareness and secure business growth.



Backed knowledge sessions and highlighted industrial safety priorities, underlining how resilience must be embedded in operations.



Strengthened the Summit by sharing its commitment to responsible and safe industrial practices that reflect global standards.



Enhanced the technology focus of the Summit, underlining its leadership in advanced surveillance systems vital to India's security ecosystem.



Contributed to knowledge sessions and reinforced the emergence of Indian-built solutions designed to meet future security challenges.



Sponsored family health insurance for all Brave Security Guard finalists, highlighting the role of financial protection in safeguarding frontline protectors and their families.



Brought cyber defence into focus while also contributing to knowledge sessions. As a rising player in cybersecurity, Dievas showcased how Indian expertise can address global digital threats.



Demonstrated how Indian innovation in forensic technology is now a remarkable achievement the world needs to hear. Their showcase reinforced the growing capability of home-grown solutions in tackling fraud and cybercrime.



Came on board as apparel partner, providing stylish and comfortable apparel for all participants. Their support ensured a unified, professional, and celebratory presence throughout the event, adding to the pride and spirit of the summit.

AI, Cybersecurity and Privacy: Experts Call for Digital Trust and Sovereignty



Panel 2: AI, Cybersecurity & Privacy
Co- AI, Cybersecurity and Privacy Coasts? The Pursuit of Trust in a Digital Age

Abhishek Kumar, CEO Divesa linked the conversation to India's digital independence. He commented, "Data sovereignty anchors India's digital independence. In line with Atma Nirbhar Bharat, Divesa fortifies trust by building next-generation SaaS with indigenous expertise and uncompromising security."

Moderated by Lt Gen Rajesh Pant (Retd.), Former National Cyber Security Coordinator, Government of India, the session centred on the challenge of building confidence across stakeholders. "The question before us is: how do we create digital trust between individuals, government and private organizations? Unless people believe their data is safe, their privacy is respected, and institutions remain accountable, no amount of technological progress will suffice," he said.

The panel featured Arun Sethi, Former Executive Council of NASSCOM; Rama Vedashree, Former CEO, Data Security Council of India; Prof. N.K. Goyal, President CMAI, CSAI & Chairman E. TEMA; Samuel Sathiyajith, Senior Vice President, Secqrite; Lt Gen Rajesh Pant (Retd.), Former National Cyber Security Coordinator, Government of India.

The experts agreed that cybercrime has become the single largest risk to economic growth, with fraud and privacy breaches eroding trust in digital systems. While AI is transforming banking, healthcare and mobility, its rapid adoption also exposes societies to new risks, particularly among younger users.

Speakers also flagged India's long-pending cybersecurity policy; last updated in 2013, and called for a comprehensive AI framework. While the DP-DPA is a step forward, they stressed that governance must be supported by infrastructure, awareness and capacity.

Concluding the debate, Lt Gen Pant observed: "Cybercrime may be our greatest risk, but digital trust is our greatest opportunity."

Unified Security in Focus at Times Secure India Summit 2025

The Times Secure India Summit 2025 brought together one of leading industry participants to highlight how physical and cyber security are converging into a single framework of resilience. Genius Vision Digital (GVD) featured in the summit narrative with its integrated platforms combining Video Management Systems, AI-driven analytics, and enterprise Command and Control. With applications across banking, power, healthcare, government, and hospitality, GVD demonstrated how modern security solutions are enabling risk reduction, compliance, and resilience in a rapidly evolving threat environment.

Lab Systems India, Defeating a Ransomware Attack

At the Times Secure India Summit, Lab Systems India highlighted how it neutralized a major ransomware attack on a global client through advanced digital forensics. Using its proprietary platform MyFRT for forensic imaging, memory capture, malware detection, and timeline reconstruction, the team preserved evidence and traced the malware. Coinsector tracked cryptocurrency transactions, Cobweb profiled attacker activity, and Cylbe identified leaked data and compromised credentials. This coordinated effort enabled recovery of decryption keys without ransom, restored systems, and reinforced security controls, proving that a well-structured forensic strategy can outpace cybercriminals and ensure resilience in complex investigations.

Control Room Innovation Highlighted at Times Secure

The Times Secure India Summit 2025 featured technology players addressing the convergence of security and resilience. Veracity was among the key partners to the event, bringing focus on non-camera components of surveillance and integrated security management. The company has developed expertise in IP video transmission, long-retention storage, display controllers. Its flagship VIEWSCAPE® platform has supported several projects in corporate security, public space monitoring, smart cities, and critical infrastructure. With operations in India for over a decade, Veracity's presence reflected how global experience and local adaptation are shaping modern approaches to surveillance and control room integration.

Forging India's New Security Paradigm

When I was commissioned into the Indian Army from the Officers Training Academy, Chennai, my oath was clear: to defend India against all threats, external and internal. In operations like Op Vijay and Op Parakram, the frontlines were visible. Today, however, those lines are blurred. The battlefield now stretches into digital systems, supply chains, and financial networks. This demands that national security be reimagined as a shared responsibility across government, industry, and society.

Hybrid warfare shows us that tanks and missiles are only part of the fight. Malware, disinformation, and drones can destabilise nations just as effectively. For India, corporate ecosystems are vital frontlines. Businesses manage the infrastructure—digital, financial, and logistical—that underpins resilience. My own journey from Army Air Defence to the corporate sector has reinforced one truth: corporate resilience is national resilience.

To align business objectives with national security goals, we must adopt a Corporate Resilience Framework anchored in four pillars:

- Fortify Digital Sovereignty** – Build sovereign cloud and AI, supported by cyber fusion cells for real-time intelligence.
- Engineer Antifragile Supply Chains** – Diversify and localise critical resources, leveraging PLI schemes to reduce vulnerabilities.
- Forge Public-Private Intelligence Alliances** – Establish trusted forums for intelligence exchange, drawing from models like OSAC.
- Counter Cognitive Warfare** – Create an industry-led, government-enabled consortium to fight disinformation and build digital literacy.

The Times Secure India Summit is more than a forum; it is India's largest platform to forge this compact. Our oath as soldiers remains unchanged—to protect and serve—but the terrain has transformed. The task now is to build a nation resilient enough to withstand the multidimensional conflicts of tomorrow.

- Capt Shakil Ahmed (Retd.)

Fire, Life Safety & Electric Mobility



The third panel at the Times Secure India Summit 2025, held at Bharat Mandapam, explored the intersection of fire safety and electric mobility under the theme Beyond Compliance – Building a Culture of Urban Fire Safety in the Age of Electric Mobility. Moderated by Dr D.K. Shami (Former Fire Advisor, MHA), the session featured Dr Prabhakar Rahangdale, Ananya Prabhu, Prashant Nayak, and Sandeep Goel.

A central concern was how electric vehicle fires differ from conventional ones. Panelists highlighted the challenges of thermal runaway, reignition, and cascading damage across multiple vehicles, making evacuation and extended cooling essential. Dr Prabhakar Rahangdale recalled incidents that kept brigades engaged for over 14 hours, underscoring the need for new tactics, upgraded sprinklers, and under-car cooling technologies.

On the manufacturing side, the discussion turned to prevention. Ananya Prabhu of Ather Energy emphasised that EVs, when engineered with robust battery management systems and strict quality checks, have far fewer fire incidents than ICE vehicles. Safety, he noted, must be delivered through design discipline rather than left to end-users.

Infrastructure and regulatory frameworks formed the third pillar of debate. Prashant Nayak of IIRIS pointed to Singapore's foresight in embedding EV safety into urban planning well before large-scale adoption. Sandeep Goel of Proton Technologies added that Indian codes require urgent updates, including segregation of EV and ICE parking zones, realistic power densities, and retrofitting of basements.

The discussion closed on consensus: electric mobility is irreversible, but resilience will depend on foresight, evidence-led codes, and collaboration between manufacturers, regulators, engineers, and firefighters.

Reinventing Security Technology: From Hardware to Intelligent Systems

Once defined by access cards, CCTV's and static control rooms, India's security environment is today being reshaped by artificial intelligence, cloud-based command centers and predictive monitoring tools. This transformation, highlighted at the Times Secure India Summit 2025, is not just technological but strategic, altering how the nation positions itself in a volatile global order.

The panel on Security Technology, moderated by Kunal Bhogal, COO, IIRIS, set the tone by emphasising that security is no longer confined to protecting assets but is becoming a driver of resilience and competitiveness in a shifting global landscape. He was joined by Maj Gen Jagatbir Singh, VSM (Retd.), Geopolitical Risk and Strategic Affairs Expert; Col Gurdeep Bains (Retd.), Global Protective Services Lead, Accenture; Maj Paul Devassy (Retd.), CEO, IIRIS Knowledge; and Dp Sreenivas, Co-Founder & CRO, Duranc Tech Services.

The discussion underscored how India, already contributing nearly five percent to the 100 billion dollar global security industry, is set for further growth with demand for surveillance and access systems projected to double by 2030. Smart Cities, electric vehicle adoption, industrial compliance and residential security are driving this surge, while security command centers across the country have already created millions of jobs.

Amid this expansion, the panel highlighted the vulnerabilities created by heavy dependence on imported hardware. Recent geopolitical shocks such as the Galwan clashes and the Russia-Ukraine war have shown how technology and supply chains can be weaponised, making self-reliance in security technology a strategic necessity.

While AI-powered systems are improving efficiency and enabling predictive monitoring, they also carry risks such as false alerts, rogue algorithms and cyber intrusions. The way forward lies in developing sovereign data centers, encouraging indigenous manufacturing and ensuring that human oversight remains central to decision-making. Affordability and scalability were also identified as priorities, with cloud integration and models such as Video Surveillance as a Service enabling organisations to adopt advanced systems without heavy upfront costs.

The panel concluded that India's security future depends on combining indigenous innovation, sovereign infrastructure, affordability and human intelligence.

IIRIS: Working to Make India Hub of Risk Intelligence

In an interconnected world defined by rapid technological advancement, climate volatility, and shifting geopolitical power balances, risk is no longer confined to a single domain—it is multidimensional, dynamic, and borderless. From cyber intrusions and supply chain vulnerabilities to white-collar crime and geopolitical disruptions, businesses and governments face risks that demand scientific precision and systemic intelligence.

This is where IIRIS, an India-born global risk intelligence and security powerhouse, is charting a transformative path. With eight offices across India and operations many international offices, IIRIS has become one of the trusted partner in helping organizations pre-empt, detect, and neutralize threats across the physical, digital, and geopolitical spectrum.

Risk Intelligence as a Science
At IIRIS, risk management is not just advisory—it is built on data science, forensic methodologies, behavioural analytics, and predictive modelling. By integrating AI-driven intelligence systems with human expertise drawn from military, corporate, and academic backgrounds, IIRIS transforms risk management into a quantifiable and evidence-backed discipline.

Key Characteristics of Risk Intelligence

- Quantifying Uncertainty:** The core of risk intelligence involves measuring and understanding the probability and potential impact of various risks using data and statistical models.
- Data-Driven Analysis:** It relies on the systematic collection and analysis of data from multiple sources to identify patterns and emerging threats.
- Predictive Modeling:** Advanced tools and algorithms are used to forecast future challenges and potential risk scenarios, enabling proactive planning.
- Integration of Technology:** Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) are instrumental in processing large datasets, expediting the risk identification process, and improving accuracy.
- Proactive & Forward-Looking:** It applies an intelligence-driven analytical methodology, often based on The Intelligence Cycle, to transform raw data into actionable intelligence.

India's Rise as a Global Hub for Risk Solutions
Solution created in India is always very rugged one as it caters to huge diversity, large volumes and difficult market environment. India's is all set ascent as one of the global leader in the risk solutions space with its deep talent pool, technological advancements, and increasing role in global affairs.

In the coming decade, Indian firms will be at the forefront of delivering integrated risk solutions spanning risk advisory, forensic sciences, cybersecurity, ESG, and security product innovation to all major industries worldwide. This evolution places India in a unique position: not only as a consumer of global security frameworks, but as a provider of risk intelligence and resilience solutions to the world.

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For the more information, email for: parul.katoch@timessecureindia.com

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