

Uttarakhand Cybersecurity Review Post-Attack

Why in News?

Recently, Uttarakhand's data center was temporarily shut down due to a <u>malware attack</u>, prompting a <u>cybersecurity</u> review by the state's Chief Minister.

Key Points

Cyberattack Incident:

- Malware attack temporarily closed down Uttarakhand's State Data Centre.
- Chief Minister held a review meeting with officials from key departments like <u>Information</u>
 <u>Technology Development Agency (ITDA)</u>, <u>National Informatics Centre (NIC)</u>, and police.
 - CM ordered the creation of a cybersecurity task force for online services security.
- Proposed establishing a <u>disaster</u> recovery center for securing and recovering online data

Cybersecurity Enhancements:

- CM directed a security audit of the State Data Centre and online platforms.
- Instructed the study and implementation of **best practices** from other states, central ministries, and agencies in cybersecurity.
- Ordered a review of the ITDA's technical work and potential action if negligence is found.

Personnel and Training:

- Directed filling of personnel vacancies in ITDA and provision of cybersecurity training to staff.
- Ensured updating of <u>anti-virus systems</u> in every government office to prevent future incidents.

Damage Control:

- No data loss reported from the malware attack on virtual machines.
- Out of 1378 machines, 11 were affected.
- Sites like e-office and CM helpline have already been restored.

Information Technology Development Agency (ITDA)

- The Information Technology Development Agency (ITDA) is an independent and autonomous body under the Government of Uttarakhand.
- Its primary mission is to drive the growth of the <u>Information Technology (IT)</u> sector in Uttarakhand and to implement <u>e-Governance</u> projects across the state.
- ITDA provides IT-related inputs and support to government departments, promotes IT sector growth, facilitates IT human resource development, and encourages innovation in technology.
- Additionally, it undertakes tasks related to Information Technology enabled Services (ITeS), Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and electronics.

