

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah presided over the 30th meeting of Northern Zonal Council in Jaipur today

Zonal Councils provide an important forum for discussions regarding cordial relations between the Center and the States, amicable settlement of inter-State issues, enhancing regional cooperation between States and on issues of common national importance to be implemented across the country

After the formation of the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2014, it has been the emphasis of Prime Minister that the meetings of the Zonal Council should be regular, result-oriented and successful in finding solutions to the pending issues

Under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Inter-State Council, Union Home Ministry and all the Ministries of the Government of India are working with State Governments to speed this up

Between 2006 and 2013, 6 meetings of Zonal Council and 8 meetings of its Standing Committee were held, while from 2014 to 2022, 19 meetings of the Zonal Councils and 24 meetings of Standing Committees were held, Home Minister said, we have significantly increased number of meetings of Council and have also made them result-oriented, this momentum and record of achieving results should continue

Resolving issues between the States in the Northern region and between the Center and States is very important for the development of the country and to strengthen the federal structure

Although the role of the Council is advisory, I am happy that in my experience of last three years, more than 75 percent of the issues in the Council have been resolved through consensus

A very good process has started and we all should continue with it, we are moving towards achieving 100 per cent results on issues of national consensus

Northern Zonal Council's 30th meeting and 19th meeting of the Standing Committee discussed a total of 47 issues, out of these 4 have been identified as significant at national level

Out of these 47 issues, 35 issues were resolved, this shows the resolve of the Government led by Shri Narendra Modi and its commitment towards all-round development of the country with the spirit of federalism

In the meeting, stress was laid on preparing an effective strategy, by all stakeholders, to deal with cyber crime, Home Minister instructed constitution of a committee under the chairmanship of Union Home Secretary to formulate a strategy to prevent financial frauds and cyber crimes committed through social media

Threats of cyber crime and strategies to prevent these and emphasis on conducting cyber awareness campaigns through various mediums

Organized and coordinated cyber attacks have a deep impact on national security, public order and economic activity, prompting the need for all to work together to ensure safe national cyberspace and overall security

Shri Amit Shah calls for strict action against cyber criminals in various hot-spots of cyber crime by better coordination between central and state security agencies

In line with the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to expand the banking network in rural areas, considerable progress has been achieved towards providing banking facilities within 5 km to all villages

Dated- 09th July, 2022

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah presided over the 30th meeting of the Northern Zonal Council in Jaipur today. The meeting was attended by the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Ashok Gehlot, the Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Manohar Lal and the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Jai Ram Thakur, the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Shri Radha Krishna Mathur, the Administrator of Chandigarh, Shri Banwarilal Purohit, the Delhi, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Manish Sisodia, Finance Minister of Punjab Shri Harpal Singh Cheema and senior ministers of member States. The meeting was also attended by the Union Home Secretary, Secretaries of the Inter-State Council Secretariat, Chief Secretaries of Member States in the Northern Region and senior officials of the States and Central Ministries and Departments.



Shri Amit Shah said that the regional councils have a long history in the development of the country. These councils provide an important forum for discussions in cordial atmosphere between the Center and the State,

settlement of disputed inter-State issues through unanimous agreement, enhancing regional cooperation between States and issues of common national importance to be implemented across the country.

The Union Home Minister said that after the government led by Shri Narendra Modi came to power in 2014, it has been the emphasis of Prime Minister that the meetings of the Zonal Council should be regular, result-oriented and the pending issues should be resolved. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Inter-State Council and the Ministry of Home Affairs, along with all the Ministries of the Government of India and State Governments, are working to speed it up. He said that between 2006 and 2013, 6 meetings of the Regional Council and 8 meetings of its Standing Committee were held, while from 2014 to 2022, 19 meetings of the Regional Council and 24 of the Standing Committee were held. Shri Shah said that the frequency of the meetings of the Council has been increased considerably and they have also been made result-oriented. He said that this pace and record of bringing results should be continued.

The Union Home Minister said that in the northern region, inter-state interaction and resolution of problems between the Center and the States are very important for the development of the country and for strengthening the federal structure. He said that earlier in the meeting of Northern Zonal Council held in Chandigarh in 2019, 18 issues were discussed and out of these 16 issues were resolved.



The Northern Zonal Council also discussed the growing threat of cybercrime and strategies for its prevention. The Union Home Minister stressed upon the States and Union Territories to conduct awareness campaigns on cyber-vigilance through various mediums. In view of the profound impact of cyber crimes on national security, public order and economic activity, the Council emphasized the need to ensure the security of the nation's cyber space and the security of citizens as a whole. Shri Amit Shah advised agencies of the Central and State Governments to use common software developed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, to work together to identify the issues of concern and to trace the offenders and

take strict action against them. In this context, it was decided that a committee under the chairmanship of the Union Home Secretary with all concerned departments and State governments would prepare a strategy to deal with the growing menace of cyber crime.

The Union Home Minister also stressed on the need to train police officers, public prosecutors and cutting edge agencies including telecom companies, their PoS agents with new technology and advanced skills. He called for maximum use of IT tools to detect cyber crimes and take systematic measures to prevent their recurrence.



The complex problems of sharing river water among the member states were also discussed in the meeting. Shri Amit Shah also asked the concerned States to take a cordial approach to the issue and find a time bound solution. Shri Amit Shah said that all the stakeholders should come together to establish a strong cooperative mechanism for development, for

which purpose the regional councils were created. He said that although the role of the Council is advisory, he is happy that in his three years of experience, more than 75 percent of the issues in the Council have been resolved by consensus. Thus a very good process has started and we all should continue it. He said that we are moving towards achieving 100 per cent results on issues requiring building of national consensus.



The Union Home Minister said that in the last three years, many important issues related to the country have been included in various meetings of the Zonal Councils. These include forensic science lab and forensic science university, amendment in CrPC and IPC, banking service in every village of the country within a radius of five kilometers, mobile network in 100% villages, providing rural population all the facilities of State and Central government through common service center, all the beneficiary schemes of the state and central government to reach directly

into the account of the beneficiaries through 100% DBT and many issues related to national security.

A total of 47 issues were discussed in the 30th meeting of the Northern Zonal Council held in Jaipur today and the 19th meeting of its Standing Committee. Out of these, 4 issues have been identified as important topics at the national level, these are being regularly discussed and monitored in the meetings of various Zonal Councils. These include improving banking services in rural areas, monitoring cases of rape and sexual offenses against women and children, setting up fast track courts for such cases and implementing Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Of the 47 issues that were discussed, 35 issues have been resolved. It shows the resolve and commitment of the Modi government towards the all-round development of the nation in the spirit of cooperative federalism.



It was also appreciated in the meeting that as per the vision given by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to expand the banking network in rural

areas, a lot of progress has been achieved in the direction of providing banking facilities within 5 km to all the villages. This issue was discussed in the meetings of all the Zonal Councils during the last 3 years including today's meeting of the Northern Zonal Council. Based on the discussions and suggestions in these meetings, the Department of Financial Services, Department of Posts and the Ministry of Cooperation will prepare a roadmap for setting up of IPPB touch points of bank branches (including co-operative bank branches) and post offices within 5 km in each village in a time bound manner. The expansion of such bank branches/IPPB touch points in the Northern Region States and Union Territories was specially discussed in this meeting in Jaipur. The Union Home Minister expressed hope that this action will be completed soon for these States and Union Territories.

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