Nepal’s Cyber Security Journey: Tracing the Evolution and Challenges

1. After the fall in 2006, the government started working on the Electronic Transactions Act, which was implemented in 2008. The act aimed to protect transactions conducted through electronic means.

2. The government has increased the maximum penalty for cybercrimes such as cyberstalking and hacking.

3. Nepal has established a National Cyber Security Center for preparedness and response. The center works 24/7 to monitor and respond to cyber threats.

4. The government has launched a Cyber Security Policy that outlines an extensive framework comprising 9 strategies and 72 action plans. The policy aims to enhance the nation’s cyber resilience, develop a skilled workforce, and safeguard critical national infrastructure.

5. Nepal has witnessed a substantial surge in its internet user base, which reached 15.85 million individuals as of January 2023. As a result, cybersecurity has become a priority on a global scale.

6. Notably, Nepal has managed to disrupt approximately 1,500 government websites, which were facing a series of security breaches in recent years.

7. The government has been addressing cybercrime-related complaints, and with the continuous surveillance of the country’s information technology landscape, it has led to the establishment of the National Information Technology Emergency Response Team (NITERT) in 2009.

8. The Cyber Security Policy calls for establishing legal and institutional frameworks to cultivate a secure cyberspace, mitigate the threat of cyber attacks, and work towards the country’s cybersecurity stature.

9. The policy highlights the importance of setting ambitious targets to enhance cybersecurity and developing a skilled workforce in the field of cyber security.

10. While the policy demonstrates a clear focus on data control, there are concerns that it might inadvertently undermine efforts to bolster trust in the country’s IT and communications infrastructure. Furthermore, the policy faces a challenge in translating the cyber security policy into enforceable legislation within the country’s legal framework.

11. The policy lacks a concrete timeline and comprehensive strategies for addressing the challenges and threats posed by Artificial Intelligence. Nevertheless, the policy’s implementation is expected to have a significant impact on Nepal’s cybersecurity landscape.

Timeline

- 1974 A.D: The establishment of the Centre for Electronic Data Processing.
- 2008 A.D: The introduction of the National Communication Policy.
- 2010 A.D: The Technology Policy.
- 2020 A.D: The Cyber Security Index (GCI) score increased from 44.99 to 60.
- 2023 A.D: Over a span of ten years, Nepal has set ambitious targets to enhance its cyber security stature on the global landscape.