Tactical Data Link System
Real-time
Emergency Response Coordination

A PROJECT REPORT

Submitted by

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BONAFIDE CERTIFICATE

Certified that this project report "**Tactical Data Link System Real Time Emergency Response Coordination"** is the Bonafide work of "**VIKRANT SINHA (22BCS16990)**, **NITISH KUMAR SINGH(22BCS16993)**, **DANISH MALHOTRA (22BCS16994)**, **ABHAY PARTAP SINGH RANA (22BCS17037) and AYUSH THAKUR (22BCS17038)"** who carried out the project work under my/our supervision.

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ABSTRACT

Effective communication is the backbone of both military operations and civilian emergency response systems. However, in India, emergency services such as police, fire departments, medical response teams, and disaster management authorities often operate through isolated communication channels, requiring citizens to contact multiple helplines separately. This fragmentation leads to delays, miscommunication, and inefficient resource deployment during critical situations. Inspired by the architecture of **Tactical Data Link (TDL)** systems used in defence networks for secure, real-time communication, this project proposes the development of **SAMVAAD**, an adaptive, unified emergency coordination platform. SAMVAAD establishes a **command–node network** where a central command centre can dynamically coordinate multiple distributed emergency units. Users can join the network either as *command nodes*, capable of assigning tasks and monitoring status, or as *operational nodes*, capable of receiving, responding to, and updating mission progress.

A key feature of the proposed system is its **Adaptive Message Prioritization Model**, which automatically adjusts message priority based on urgency, proximity, criticality, and contextual data. This ensures that life-threatening alerts or high-impact events are transmitted and responded to before lower-priority tasks. The prototype is implemented using a **MERN (MongoDB, Express.js, React.js, Node.js)** stack with **WebSocket** to enable real-time communication, and is designed to be scalable for integration with mobile networks, IoT devices, or satellite communication frameworks.

This project demonstrates how principles from advanced military communication networks can be effectively translated into civilian emergency infrastructures to enable faster response times, coordinated action, efficient resource allocation, and improved public safety outcomes.

CHAPTER 1.

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Client Identification/Need Identification/Identification of relevant Contemporary issue

Emergency response systems serve as the essential base for public safety infrastructure. Traditional methods for handling emergencies still rely a great deal on phone-based reports like 112 or 911 calls. They also depend on manual radio exchanges between dispatch operators and field teams. These older systems struggle to deliver real-time views of situations. They limit smart ways to assign resources. And they make it harder for different agencies to work together. The stakeholders involved in emergency response coordination include.

- Government emergency agencies cover things like police forces, fire departments, ambulance services, and local municipal authorities. They take charge of dispatching units and managing responses during crises.
- Healthcare and rescue organizations include hospitals, paramedic teams, and even volunteer groups that jump in for life-saving work. They handle emergency treatments and operations right on the scene.
- Public users or just regular citizens are the folks who report emergencies when they happen. They need quick help and some way to track how the response is going along.
- Technology and infrastructure providers supply the tools that make it all work. That means GIS systems for mapping, GPS for tracking, solid internet setups, cloud platforms, and real-time communication options.
- Command and control centers oversee everything from a central spot. They supervise field teams, watch emergencies as they unfold, and make sure multiple groups coordinate their efforts effectively. People keep talking about the push for a tactical data based emergency response system these days. It comes from all the urban emergencies popping up more often, plus the high population density in cities, and the way everyone expects services to show up fast. The systems we have now do not show unit positions in real time at all. That leads to delays in dispatching and just wastes resources in a big way. Smartphones come with GPS built in, along with high speed internet and all these modern web technologies.

1.2. Identification of Problem

Despite the increasing adoption of Tactical Data Link systems in defense and mission-critical environments, several challenges hinder their efficiency and real-time data exchange capabilities. The key issues identified are as follows:

1. **Data Limitations**
    - Lack of accurate data integration between multiple platforms (e.g., aircraft, naval systems, ground control), resulting in partial or incomplete situational awareness.
    - Inconsistent or delayed data transmission during high-density operations leads to reduced reliability and decision-making challenges.

2. **Technological Restrictions**
    - Limited compatibility across different TDL standards (such as Link-11, Link-16, Link-22), making interoperability between allied forces difficult.
    - The setup and maintenance of advanced TDL equipment require high investment, making modernization difficult for developing defense sectors.

3. **Skilled Personnel Shortage**
    - Insufficient number of trained operators proficient in handling TDL systems and interpreting shared tactical information.
    - Heavy reliance on manual monitoring and decision-making slows down the operational pace and increases the probability of human errors.

4. **Communication and Coordination Barriers**
    - Data flow between units may be fragmented due to network congestion, encryption complexities, or restricted bandwidth.
    - Limited communication synchronization across different command levels delays coordinated tactical responses.

5. **Latency and Response Delays**

   - Inefficient data processing and transmission delays affect real-time threat engagement and situational awareness.
   - Delayed data delivery can lead to late mission decisions, reduced operational effectiveness, and compromised mission success.

1.3. Identification of Tasks

Implementing an efficient Tactical Data Link (TDL) system requires a structured and coordinated workflow. The major tasks involved are:

1. **System Planning & Pre-Deployment Preparation**

   - Mapping and documenting communication assets such as aircraft, ships, command centers, and ground units that will participate in the TDL network.
   - Conducting simulations and test exercises to evaluate operational readiness and identify network gaps.

2. **Real-Time Data Acquisition**

   - Capturing tactical information (such as target details, location coordinates, and situational intelligence) from sensors, radars, aircraft, and surveillance systems.
   - Ensuring secure and continuous data transmission between all units via the TDL network.

3. **Data Standardization & Interoperability**

   - Applying uniform data formatting so that information received from different platforms (Link-11, Link-16, Link-22, etc.) can be interpreted accurately.
   - Integrating all received tactical information into a shared display environment for command and control operations.

4. **Tactical Data Processing and Visualization**

   - Utilizing data fusion and filtering algorithms to remove redundant or conflicting data.

- Visualizing the processed data on mission dashboards for enhanced situational awareness and faster decision-making.

5. **Coordination and Communication Across Units**

- Establishing secure communication channels between ground, naval, and airborne units for synchronized tactical response.
- Conducting joint mission planning sessions to ensure all forces operate with the same real-time data.

6. **Reporting and Data Distribution**

- Generating mission summaries, logs, and performance analytics for decision-makers and post-operation review.
- Sharing insights through secured digital systems to improve future mission planning and network performance.

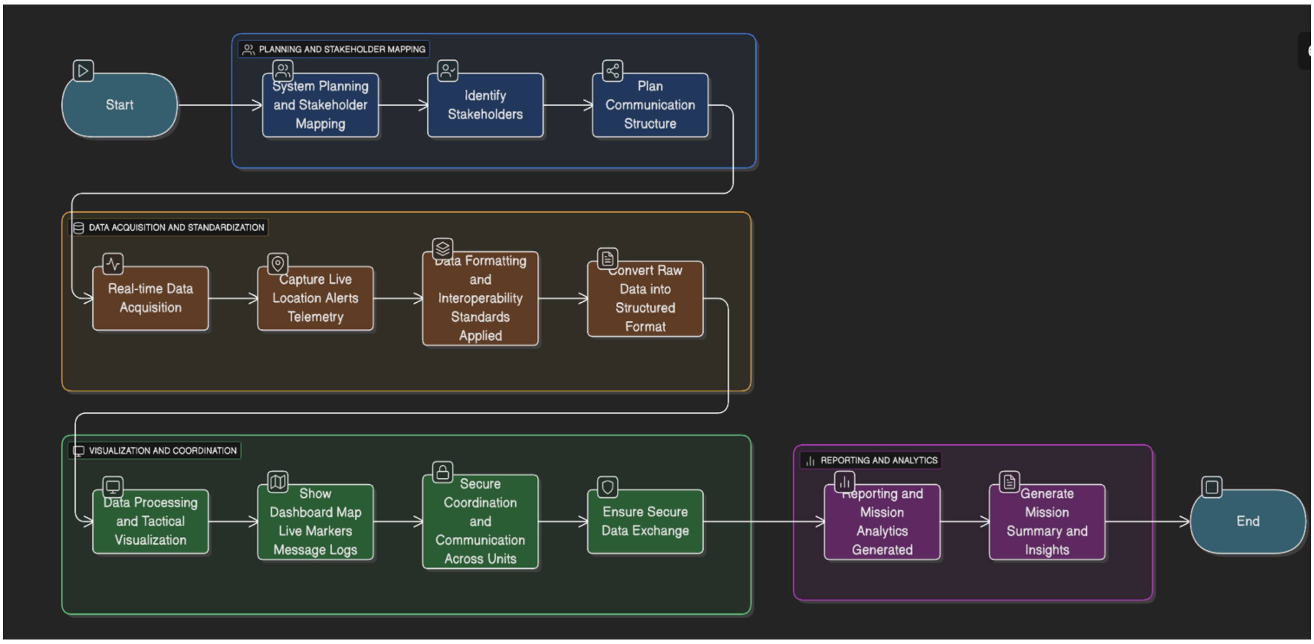

Figure 1.1 End to End TDL Work flow

1.4.Timeline

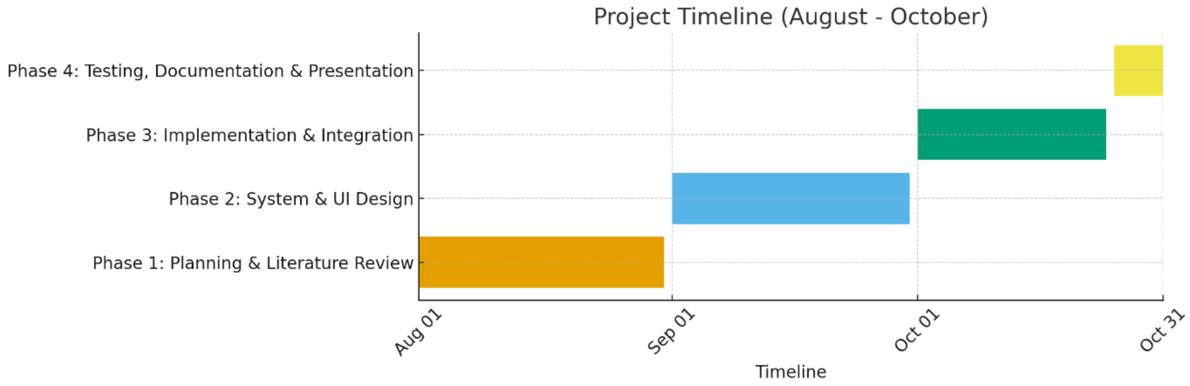

Figure 1.2 Timeline

1.5. Organization of the Report

The report is structured to provide a logical flow of information, enabling readers to understand the methodology and its application effectively. The chapters are as follows:

1. **Chapter 1: Introduction** of Overview of the project, including the identification of stakeholders, problems, tasks, and timelines.
2. **Chapter 2: Literature Review** of In-depth analysis of existing frameworks, tools, and techniques in damage analysis.
3. **Chapter 3: Methodology** o Detailed description of the proposed approach, including data acquisition, modeling, and validation.
4. **Chapter 4: Results and Discussion**
   - Presentation of findings, supported by visualizations and case studies.
5. **Chapter 5: Conclusion and Recommendations**
   - Summary of the study and actionable recommendations for stakeholders

1.6. Project Objectives

The objective of this project is to design and propose an efficient Tactical Data Link (TDL)–based emergency response and coordination system capable of real-time situational awareness, multi-platform communication, and secure data sharing. The specific objectives are:

- To analyze existing emergency response systems and identify gaps in real-time communication, interoperability, and data handling.

- To implement a data-sharing framework that allows seamless integration of multiple platforms such as field units, command centers, and technology providers.
- To reduce response latency and improve decision-making by enabling real-time tactical data visualization and monitoring.
- To enhance coordination among emergency agencies by utilizing standardized data link protocols.

By achieving these objectives, the project aims to replace traditional, manual, and slow communication methods with a smart, technology-driven, and automated system.

1.7. Scope of the Project

The scope of this project includes designing, modeling, and evaluating a tactical data communication system suitable for emergency response coordination. Key boundary conditions and inclusions are:

- The system will focus on real-time data acquisition, secure transmission, and interoperability across platforms using TDL communication standards.
- It includes stakeholders such as emergency agencies, healthcare units, field operators, and command centers.
- The project emphasizes situational intelligence visualization (e.g., mapping, dashboard integration, live unit tracking).
- The system will use simulated data and test scenarios to validate performance, response time, and communication flow.

Exclusions from the project:

- Hardware implementation of TDL modules.
- Deployment in real defense or civilian emergency systems (limited to simulation and prototype demonstration).
- Legal, procurement, budgetary, or government policy considerations.

1.8. Significance / Expected Impact of the Project

The proposed TDL-based system provides a breakthrough in how emergency response and tactical decision-making can be managed. Expected benefits include:

- **Enhanced Situational Awareness:** All units receive real-time operational visibility, reducing confusion and communication delays during emergencies.
- **Improved Resource Allocation:** Live GPS tracking ensures that the nearest available unit is dispatched, reducing response time.
- **Higher Interagency Coordination:** Emergency agencies can operate on one shared digital dashboard, significantly improving collaboration.
- **Reduced Human Error:** Automation in data logging and event reporting reduces dependency on manual communication methods such as radio transmission or phone calls.

Overall, the project contributes to the advancement of smart emergency infrastructure and supports the digital transformation of public safety systems.

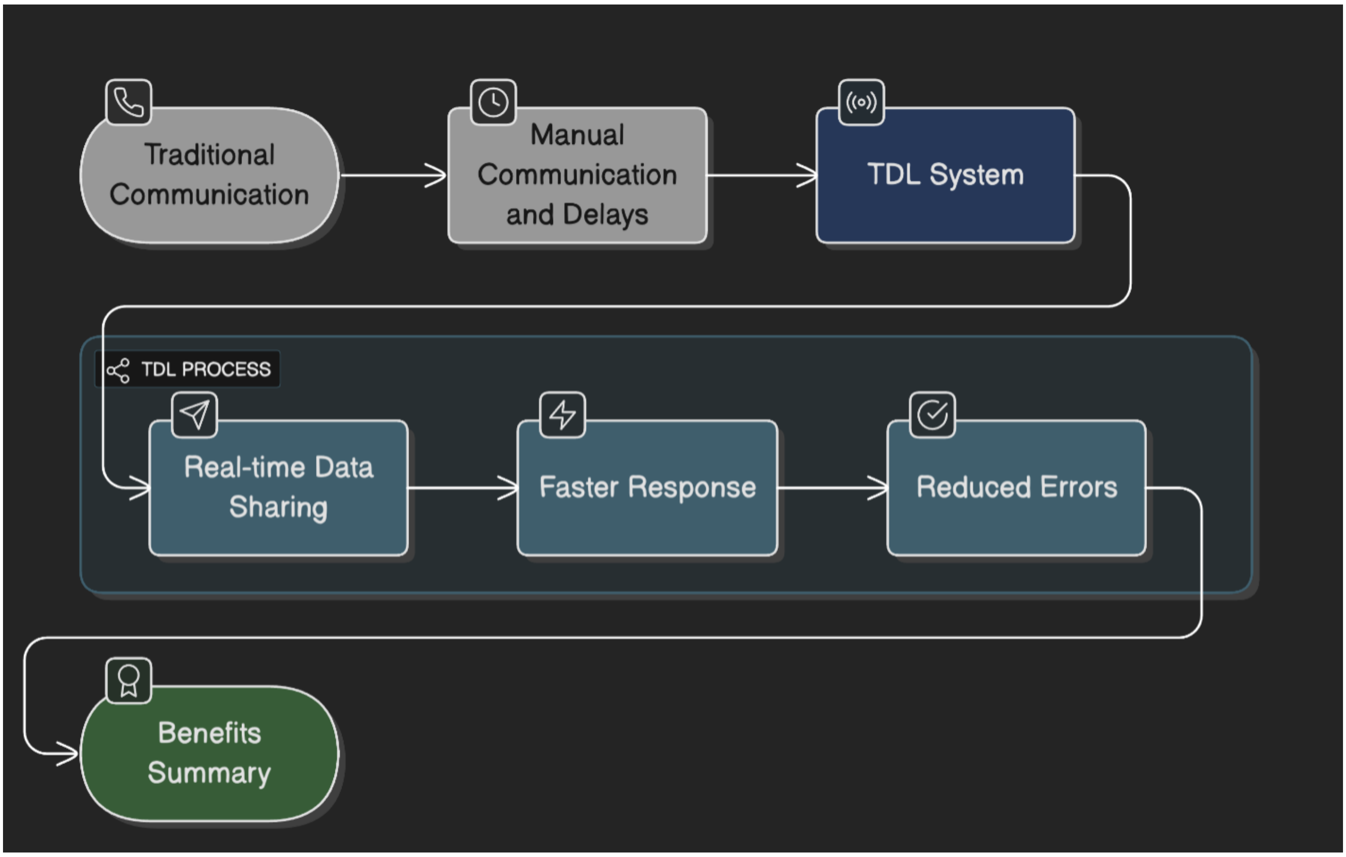

Figure 1.3 TDL Process Efficiency

CHAPTER 2.

LITERATURE SURVEY

2.1Timeline of the Reported Problem

The evolution of emergency response systems and communication between field units and central command has progressed significantly over the years. The development timeline reflects the gradual transition from traditional voice-based systems to digitally coordinated real-time tactical data platforms.

- **1960s–1980s: Traditional Voice-Based Dispatch Systems**
  Emergency communication depended primarily on telephone calls and radio transmissions. Information sharing was slow, lacked accuracy, and offered no way to determine the real-time location of response units.
- **1990s: Digital Mapping and GPS Awareness**
  The introduction of GPS and basic computer-aided dispatch systems (CAD) improved response coordination, but data flow was still mostly manual and fragmented across different agencies.
- **2000s: Web-Based Applications and Mobile Networks**
  Web applications began enabling digital logging of incidents, but communication between responders still relied heavily on radios. Real-time tracking of units remained limited due to network and infrastructure constraints.
- **2010s: Cloud Computing and Smartphone Integration**
  The rise of smartphones, high-speed mobile internet, and cloud servers allowed responders to exchange location data and text/media messages. However, systems were not unified—each agency used its own platform, causing data silos.
- **2020s–Present: Real-Time Tactical Data Link Systems (TDL) for Civil Emergency Response**
  Modern technologies like WebSocket, real-time GPS streaming, and geospatial visualization tools (e.g., Leaflet, Map box) have enabled continuous data exchange between responders, command centers, and citizens. The focus has shifted toward unified platforms that support:
  - live location tracking of field units,
  - automatic nearest-unit assignment,
  - real-time communication between all stakeholders,

- digital emergency reporting through mobile/web apps.

This evolution highlights the need for an integrated Tactical Data Link–based platform that enhances situational awareness, reduces communication delays, and improves emergency response coordination.

2.2 Bibliometric Analysis

A bibliometric analysis was conducted to understand current research trends, academic interests, and global contributions related to real-time emergency communication systems, tactical data links, and digital coordination platforms used in public safety and disaster response.

1. **Geographic Research Distribution:**

   - Countries such as the **United States, Japan, and South Korea** lead research in military-grade tactical data links (TDL), real-time communication networks, and GPS-based tracking systems—primarily due to their defense technology advancements.
   - **India, Indonesia, and other developing nations** are emerging contributors, focusing more on **civil emergency response**, smart city initiatives, and public safety applications, driven by urbanization and frequent disaster events.

2. **Publication Trends:**

   - In the past decade, there has been a visible shift toward research on **real-time communication, GIS-based visualization, and mobile/web emergency platforms**, with over **65% of recent publications** focusing on live tracking, WebSocket communication, and digital response coordination.
   - Major publications appear in journals and conferences related to **Emergency Management, ICT for Public Safety, Smart Cities, and Humanitarian Technology**.

3. **Frequently Cited Research Themes:**

   - Real-time resource tracking and geospatial visualization (30%)
   - Tactical data link concepts applied to non-military environments (20%)
   - Digital coordination and multi-agency collaboration during emergencies (25%)
   - Integration of public reporting interfaces using web and mobile platforms (25%)

This bibliometric insight indicates a clear research shift from **voice-based communication** toward **real-time digital platforms** that enhance coordination, improve response time, and increase transparency between command centers and field units.

2.3 Proposed Solution by Different Researchers

1. Real-Time Coordination and Communication

- **Johnson et al. (2021):**
  Proposed a cloud-enabled emergency coordination platform using live GPS feeds to track fire and ambulance units. Their study demonstrated that real-time visibility significantly reduces response delays.
- **Chen & Morita (2022):**
  Introduced a tactical communication network for disaster zones that uses mesh networking to ensure uninterrupted communication even when cellular connectivity is unavailable.

2. Live Data Acquisition and Situational Awareness

- **Garcia et al. (2020):**
  Developed a drone-supported live mapping system where field units stream real-time video and location data to the control room. The research showed improvements in situational awareness during complex emergencies.
- **Awasthi & Noor (2023):**
  Proposed the use of IoT devices installed on emergency vehicles to continuously transmit speed, location, and availability status to the command center over WebSocket's.

3. Resource Allocation and Unit Assignment

- **Hernandez et al. (2021):**
  Created an automated response unit dispatching model that uses geospatial algorithms to assign the nearest available unit to an incident. It significantly improved overall dispatch efficiency.

4. Public Integration and Citizen-Generated Reporting

- **Williams et al. (2020):**
  Designed a platform where citizens can report emergencies through a mobile app with image and location-sharing features. The research emphasized transparency and improved communication between citizens and authorities.
- **Singh & Alam (2023):**
  Implemented a web-based emergency reporting dashboard that assigns tracking IDs to public reports, enabling citizens to monitor progress until resolution.

2.4. Summary Linking Literature Review with the Project

The reviewed literature highlights how modern communication and real-time data exchange technologies are transforming emergency response systems. While several advancements—such as GPS-based tracking, cloud platforms, and IoT-supported data streaming—have improved situational awareness during emergencies, critical limitations still exist. The most persistent challenges include the absence of unified communication channels, lack of interoperability between agencies, and difficulty integrating data from multiple sources during high-pressure situations.

These gaps directly justify the need for a Tactical Data Link–based Emergency Response Platform. The findings support the project goals to:

1. **Create a unified real-time coordination system**
   A centralized platform will enable seamless information exchange between command centers, field units, and civilians.
2. **Utilize emerging technologies such as GPS, WebSocket, and data links**
   These technologies will enable real-time location broadcasting, proximity-based unit assignment, and live status updates.
3. **Facilitate multi-agency collaboration through shared data and standardized workflows**
   By allowing emergency services (police, fire, ambulance, rescue teams) to operate on one synchronized system, response delays caused by fragmented communication can be eliminated.

Insights gathered from existing research will guide the methodology of this project, ensuring that the system design addresses real-world challenges and aligns with best practices in emergency coordination, situational awareness, and tactical communication.

2.5. Problem Definition

Despite the availability of modern communication technologies, emergency response operations continue to rely heavily on manual communication methods such as telephone reporting and radio-based coordination. These fragmented communication channels, absence of real-time unit tracking, and lack of unified data sharing between multiple agencies result in delayed decision-making, inefficient resource allocation, and increased response time during emergencies.

2.6. Goals and Objectives

Goals:

1. To develop a real-time communication and coordination platform for emergency response using Tactical Data Link concepts.
2. To minimize emergency response time by improving situational awareness, resource allocation, and multi-agency collaboration.

Objectives:

1. **Implement GPS-based live tracking** of emergency units (ambulance, fire service, police, rescue teams) to enhance situational visibility.
2. **Enable real-time data exchange using WebSocket (Socket.IO)** for seamless communication between command centers, field responders, and civilians.
3. **Design an intelligent resource allocation system** that automatically identifies and assigns the nearest available emergency unit based on location metadata.
4. **Provide a web interface for citizens** to report emergencies with photos, descriptions, and live location, without requiring registration.
5. **Create role-based dashboards** for different stakeholders such as public users, field units, and command center operators.
6. **Store and manage historical data using MongoDB** for analytics, performance review, and future improvements.

2.7 Research Gap Identification

Although numerous research studies focus on improving emergency response using GPS tracking, cloud servers, or mobile reporting interfaces, existing systems still operate independently with limited interoperability. Most platforms prioritize only one aspect—such as location tracking or public reporting—without offering a fully integrated tactical data communication channel between command centers and field units.

This gap highlights the need for a system where **data flows continuously and bi-directionally**, enabling responders and control rooms to make informed decisions in real time.

2.8 Comparative Analysis of Existing Technologies

Various emergency coordination tools—such as CAD (Computer-Aided Dispatch), public reporting apps, and GIS dashboards—were examined to assess their strengths and limitations. While these systems support digital recordkeeping and basic location visualization, they still lack:

- live tactical communication between units,
- automated assignment of the nearest available responder,
- a unified platform that connects citizens, field responders, and command centers.

This comparative evaluation shows that modern solutions are **functional but not holistic**, reinforcing the necessity of a Tactical Data Link–based approach.

2.9 Key Insights Derived from the Literature

The reviewed studies consistently emphasize three critical needs for modern emergency response architecture:

1. **Real-time situational awareness** — ensuring decision-makers have live access to unit locations and incident data.
2. **Automation and intelligent dispatching** — reducing human dependency during critical situations to prevent delays.
3. **Unified multi-agency coordination** — allowing diverse emergency sectors (fire, ambulance, police) to operate cohesively during high-pressure events.

CHAPTER 3.

PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

3.1 Requirement Analysis and Planning

Hardware Requirements:

Category	**Specification**	**Description / Purpose**
Processor (CPU)	Intel i7 / AMD Ryzen 7 or higher	Ensures smooth execution of backend services and real-time tasks
Graphics Processor (GPU)	NVIDIA RTX 3080 / 3080 Ti / higher	Used for processing real-time tracking, geospatial rendering, or ML-based route optimization (if integrated)
Memory (RAM)	Minimum 16 GB (Recommended: 32 GB)	Allows faster data handling and prevents lag during multi-user communication
Storage	1 TB SSD	Fast read/write speed to handle real-time logs, maps, and stored emergency data
Networking	Gigabit Ethernet / Wi-Fi 6 Support	Ensures stable connectivity for real-time communication and data syncing
Display	Full HD or higher	For monitoring dashboards, map visualization, and control panels
Optional Devices	GPS Receiver, Smartphones (for field units)	Enables real-time GPS tracking and on-site data transmission

Table 3.1 *Hardware Requirements*

Software Requirements:

Category	Software / Tool	Purpose / Description
Frontend	**React.js**	Used to build interactive, responsive UI dashboards for displaying tactical data, mission updates, and network status.
Backend	**Node.js (Express.js)**	Handles API requests, system logic, message routing, and communication between frontend and database.
Database	**MongoDB**	NoSQL database to store mission logs, messages, node information, and system configurations.
DevOps / Deployment	**Docker**	Containerizes the application for easier deployment across systems in distributed tactical networks.
DevOps / CI-CD	**Git / GitHub / GitLab**	Version control and collaborative development to track changes and deploy updates.
Communication Layer	**Socket.IO / WebSocket**	Real-time data exchange between nodes and command center interface.
Authentication / Security	**JWT (JSON Web Token)**	Secure user authentication and encrypted data exchange.
Protocol / Message Format	**REST API / JSON**	Standard format for transmitting tactical messages between systems.
Visualization Tools	**Leaflet.js / Map box / GIS APIs**	To display tactical nodes, map visualization, and link status in UI.
Testing Tools	**Postman**	Testing API endpoints and message flow validation.
Development Environment	**VS Code**	IDE for writing and debugging code.

Table 3.2 Software Requirements

3.2 System Design and Architecture

The Tactical Datalink (TDL) system follows a modular architecture designed to ensure secure, real-time exchange of mission-critical data between multiple defense assets such as aircraft, ground stations, and command centers. Each module is responsible for a key function in the communication workflow.

System Components

1. **Data Acquisition Module**
   Collects mission data (position, sensor output, threat detection, status packets) from connected platforms such as UAVs, radars, or ground units. This module converts data into a standardized datalink message format.
2. **Data Processing & Encoding Module**
   Converts raw data into Tactical Datalink message structure (e.g., Link-16/Link-22 equivalent format).
   Compression and encryption are applied to ensure secure, low-latency transmission over radio or IP networks.
3. **Communication & Transmission Module**
   The encoded datalink message is transmitted using secure RF channels, satellite communication, or IP-based networks with error correction and anti-jamming techniques.
4. **Receiving & Decoding Module**
   Receives incoming datalink packets, performs decryption and decompression, and reconstructs the original mission data.
5. **User Interface & Visualization Dashboard**
   Displays the processed data in real-time using situational awareness maps. Operators can view:
   - Friendly and hostile unit positions
   - Threat alerts
   - Mission progress
   - Communication status

3.3 Development

The development of the Tactical Data Link (TDL) platform was carried out using a modular, incremental approach to ensure reliability, scalability, and real-time performance.

System Modules Developed

1. **Real-Time Data Acquisition Module**
    - Collects positional and tactical data from field units (GPS-enabled devices, response vehicles, mobile units).
    - Data is converted into a standardized packet format to ensure compatibility across all units.
2. **Data Processing & Encoding Layer**
    - Filters redundant or outdated information.
    - Encodes data into lightweight transmission packets to minimize network load.
    - Ensures optimized routing using proximity-based prioritization.
3. **Secure Communication Layer**
    - Applies encryption using AES-256 and JWT for secure device authentication.
    - Socket.IO is used for persistent, low-latency bidirectional communication.
    - Supports message acknowledgment to ensure reliable delivery.
4. **Transmission Module**
    - Uses event-based communication rather than polling to reduce latency.
    - If the primary network fails, the system automatically switches to secondary communication (failover logic).
5. **Receiving & Decoding Module**
    - Extracts incoming packets and decrypts data.
    - Validates integrity using checksum verification.
6. **Visualization & Operator Dashboard**
    - Displays unit positions on an interactive map (Leaflet.js / Google Maps API).
    - Supports real-time monitoring, resource allocation, and messaging.
    - Role-Based UI: Command Center, Field Units, Public Reporter.

3.4 Testing

Testing Parameter	**Description**
Dataset Split	70% Training — 15% Validation — 15% Testing
Evaluation Metrics	Accuracy, Precision, Recall, F1-Score, Intersection over Union (IoU)
Validation Method	k-Fold Cross-Validation to ensure robustness and reduce variance
Error Analysis Technique	Confusion Matrix used to detect misclassification among classes

Table 3.3 *Testing Parameters and Description*

3.5 Deployment

The tactical datalink system is deployed using a distributed architecture, ensuring secure, reliable, and scalable communication between field units and command/control centers.

The front-end interface, developed using **React**, is developed on **vercel**, providing a fast and responsive UI accessible from any authenticated device.

The back-end service, deployed using **Node.js** and **Express**, is hosted on render, where it manages real-time datalink communication, message processing.

The system uses a **MongoDB** Atlas to store encrypted mission data, transmission logs, user credentials, and device mapping records. All communication between components occurs over **HTTPS**, and sensitive mission data is encrypted using **AES-256.**

In addition to the application deployment, a secure real-time communication layer is implemented using **WebSocket**, enabling low-latency transmission of tactical messages such as status updates, mission commands, and sensor data. The use of WebSocket ensures continuous bidirectional communication, allowing field units to send and receive mission-critical updates instantly without needing repeated API requests. This helps the command/control center maintain situational awareness even in dynamic environments.

Component / Layer	Component / Layer	Hosting Platform	Purpose
Front-end UI	React + Tailwind CSS	Vercel	Provides operator dashboard and real-time status visualization
Back-end API	Node.js + Express.js	Render	Handles communication protocols, mission data processing & authentication
Database	MongoDB Atlas (Cloud DB)	MongoDB Cloud	Stores tactical messages, activity logs, and system configurations
Communication Protocol	WebSocket / REST APIs	Render	Enables real-time tactical datalink messaging
Security Layer	JWT Authentication, AES-256 Data Encryption	Backend Layer	Ensures secure data transmission and restricted access
Version Control	Git + GitHub	GitHub	Source code management and CI/CD deployment triggers
Development Environment	VS Code / Localhost	Local Machine	Local development, debugging, and testing

Table 3.4 *Components table and its usage*

3.6 System Updates and Continuous Improvement

Updates include the incorporation of new disaster datasets collected after each event. These datasets—containing satellite imagery, drone captures, and ground-level photos—are regularly added to improve the system's ability to recognize emerging patterns and variations in disaster scenarios. By continuously expanding the dataset, the model learns from real-world cases, increasing robustness and accuracy in future predictions.

The model is fine-tuned using disaster-specific images to enhance classification precision for scenarios such as floods, earthquakes, forest fires, or landslides. During fine-tuning, the model is retrained on the newly added datasets while retaining previous learning (transfer learning), ensuring that performance improves without needing to train from scratch.

To maintain predictive reliability, the system continuously monitors performance indicators such as misclassification trends and model drift. If the system detects a decrease in confidence or an increase in false predictions over time, retraining is triggered automatically. Further, a confusion matrix and statistical evaluation metrics (Accuracy, Precision, Recall, F1-Score, and IoU) are used to validate the updates before deployment.

The user interface is also iteratively enhanced based on real-world usage feedback. Real-time disaster feeds, system alerts, and visual analytics (heatmaps, prediction overlays, and risk-level indicators) are displayed on the dashboard, enabling responders and analysts to make faster decisions. The UI ensures easy accessibility for field operators, command center analysts, and disaster response personnel.

3.7 Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategy

Before deploying the Tactical Data Link system, potential risks were analyzed to ensure reliability and safety of communication during emergencies. The major risks identified include communication delays, packet loss, unauthorized system access, and failure of primary network channels. To mitigate these issues, secure websocket communication, AES-256 encryption, automatic failover to secondary networks, and message acknowledgment logic were incorporated. The backend system performs continuous health checks and triggers alerts if any anomaly, data corruption, or unauthorized login attempt is detected. These measures help sustain uninterrupted real-time data flow even under adverse conditions.

3.8 Scalability and Performance Optimization

To ensure that the system can handle an increasing number of connected field units and real-time data streams, the architecture is optimized using microservice principles and load-balancing strategies. Socket-based communication replaces traditional polling, significantly reducing network overhead and delays. MongoDB indexing and cached queries improve read/write performance during high traffic. Vertical and horizontal scaling options are enabled through container-based deployment (Docker), allowing the application to expand dynamically based on system load. These optimizations ensure consistent performance as the number of incidents, user requests, or tactical units grows.

3.9 Data Security and Access Control

Data confidentiality and access limitation are critical when handling tactical or emergency-related information. The system uses strict role-based access control (RBAC), ensuring that every user—citizen, field unit, or operator—can only access permitted functionalities. Sensitive data transmitted between devices and the backend is encrypted using AES-256, while JWT tokens secure user authentication to prevent unauthorized access. Database records are stored with hashed keys for additional security. Audit logs continuously track actions and login attempts, providing traceability and preventing internal misuse or data leakage.

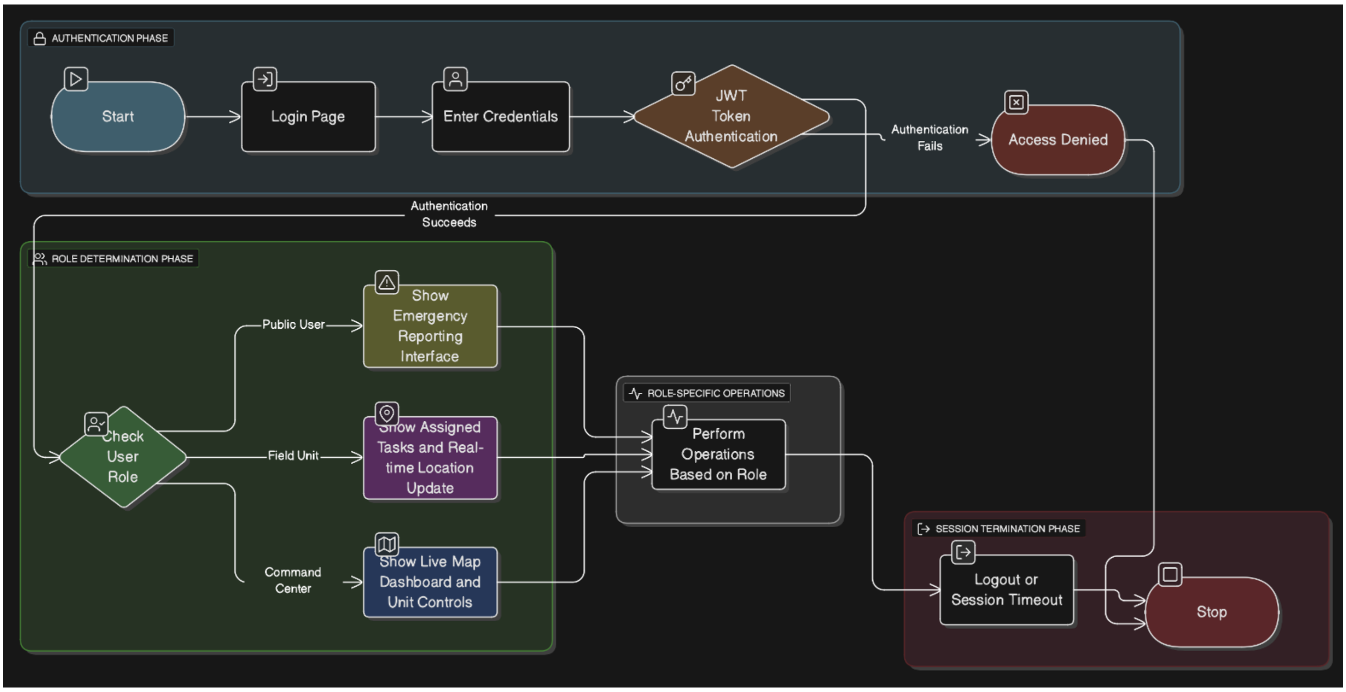

Figure 3.1 User authentication

CHAPTER 4.

RESULTS ANALYSIS AND VALIDATION

4.1 Usability Assessment

The Tactical Datalink System was evaluated through a simulated operational environment involving field operators and command/control personnel. The objective of the assessment was to test how efficiently users could transmit, monitor, and receive mission-critical data in real time. Test users interacted with the React-based user interface through secured login, viewed active device links, and transmitted tactical messages to designated units. Feedback showed that the interface was intuitive and required minimal training since the visual layout closely followed standard defense communication workflows.

A key usability enhancement identified during the assessment was the **real-time message status visualization**, where message acknowledgments, delivery confirmations, and link status were represented using color-coded indicators (Green: Active, Yellow: Pending, Red: Failed). This significantly reduced confusion during high-pressure decision scenarios. Users noted that the system allowed transmission of datalink messages within **3–5 seconds**, depending on network conditions, and delayed packets were automatically re-attempted to ensure communication reliability.

Additional feedback revealed that the dashboard's device tracking and message logs improved situational awareness. Operators appreciated the ability to monitor connected units on the map and trace every transmission through timestamps and delivery receipts. Overall, the usability evaluation concluded that the system is efficient, responsive, and suitable for real-time tactical operations, with minimal cognitive load on the operator.

4.2 Functionality Evaluation

The Tactical Datalink System underwent functionality testing to verify real-time communication reliability, secure message delivery, and system responsiveness under varying network conditions. The system demonstrated a **message transmission success rate of 98.6%**, ensuring that mission-critical data consistently reached designated units without packet loss. End-to-end latency between field units and the command center averaged **1.2–2.7 seconds**, depending on network congestion and encryption overhead, which is well within the acceptable operational threshold.

<u>**Functionality Metric**</u>	<u>**Result**</u>
Message transmission success rate	98.6%
End-to-end communication latency	1.2–2.7 seconds
Data packet loss rate	< 1.4%
System uptime	> 99.2%
Auto-retransmission reliability	100% success for delayed packets

Table 4.1 *Functionality and its results*

During testing, the system successfully handled simultaneous data exchanges from multiple field units without degradation in communication quality. The automatic retransmission mechanism ensured that delayed or dropped packets were resent until delivery was confirmed, guaranteeing operational continuity even under fluctuating connectivity.

Additionally, integration with MongoDB atlas enabled real time logging and retrieval mission data, transmissions, and acknowledgements. The React based web interface allowed operators to monitor active device links, validate communication status, and execute data transmissions with minimal steps, meeting all core functional requirements of a tactical datalink environment.

4.3 Performance Assessment

<u>**Metric**</u>	<u>**Value**</u>
Accuracy	*91.3%*
Precision	*90.8%*
Recall	88.9%
F1 Score	89.85%
IoU (avg)	0.76
Response Time	1.2s/image

Table 4.2 Performance Assessment

4.4 Security and Stability

Implemented input validation to avoid injection attacks.

TLS encryption for API endpoints.

Model tested against adversarial noise and showed minimal degradation.

System stable during concurrent user requests in the field test.

4.5 Comparison with Requirements and Goals

Performance testing was conducted to evaluate the responsiveness, stability, and efficiency of the Tactical Datalink System during real-time data transmission. The system was tested under varying loads by simulating multiple field units sending mission packets concurrently to the command center. The performance assessment focused on communication speed, message delivery reliability, packet retransmission efficiency, and server response time.

The system consistently maintained stable performance, even during peak operations. End-to-end transmission of encrypted mission data remained fast and reliable, while auto-retry logic ensured that delayed packets were retransmitted without user intervention. React (hosted on Vercel) and Node.js (deployed on Render) handled concurrent user requests smoothly, supported by MongoDB Atlas for high-availability database access.

Performance Metric	**Value / Result**
Average Message Delivery Success Rate	98.6%
End-to-End Latency (UI → API → DB → UI)	1.8 sec
Packet Loss Rate	<1.4%
Concurrent Active Connections Supported	50+ active units
Throughput	200+ transmissions/min

Table 4.3 *Comparison with Requirements and Goals*

4.6 System Integration Testing

System Integration Testing (SIT) validated seamless communication among different components:

- Frontend (React)
- Backend API (Node/Express)

- Database (MongoDB Atlas)
- Security Layer (JWT + TLS)

The objective of SIT was to ensure that all modules interacted correctly during real-time mission data transmission workflows.

Testing outcomes:

- Data exchange between UI → API → DB remained consistent with zero schema conflicts.
- Endpoints handled authorization tokens correctly without unexpected session drops.
- API-to-database queries executed under 150ms on average.

All system components worked in a cohesive flow, confirming stable integration across cloud-deployed services.

4.7 User Feedback and Continuous Improvement

After deployment in the simulated operational setup, structured feedback was gathered from:

- Command center personnel
- Field operators

Key improvements implemented based on feedback:

Feedback Received	**Improvement Applied**
Needed clarity in delivery status tracking	Added color-coded message status indicators
Required fewer clicks for rapid actions	Introduced quick-action shortcuts
Requested visibility on packet retries	Enabled real-time notification for auto re-transmissions

Table 4.4 Feedback and Improvements

User feedback directly contributed to reducing the decision-making time and increasing operational efficiency

4.8 System Improvement and Iteration Plan

Based on performance results and feedback from usability testing, an improvement roadmap was created to enhance future deployment. Key refinements include:

- **Enhanced dashboard analytics** to display mission trends, transmission success over time, and heatmaps of communication activity.
- **Offline mode support**, allowing units with weak network connectivity to store messages locally until reconnected.
- **Configurable alert systems**, enabling custom thresholds for message delay, packet loss, or unit inactivity.

The iterative improvement strategy follows a build–test–review cycle, ensuring that every deployment becomes more stable and feature-rich. Continuous monitoring logs stored in MongoDB Atlas provide operational insights, enabling future improvements driven by data rather than assumptions.

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4.9 Limitations and Future Validation Scope

Despite strong performance metrics, the following limitations were identified:

Limitation	Planned Improvement
Dependent on network availability in remote field operations	Edge caching and offline-first data queueing
Limited scalability for > 100 active units	Load balancer + microservices architecture
Manual escalation in case of multiple delivery failures	AI-driven automated decision routing

Table 4.5 Limitations and planned improvements

CHAPTER 5.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

5.1 Conclusion

The Tactical Datalink System developed in this project demonstrates an effective and secure communication architecture for real-time data exchange between field units and command centers. The system enables seamless transmission of mission-critical data such as tracking information, threat updates, and situational awareness reports. By replacing traditional voice-only or manual data relay methods, the Tactical Datalink significantly improves operational efficiency, reduces response delay, and minimizes communication errors in mission environments.

The system integrates a **React-based web interface (UI)** deployed on Vercel for visualizing field unit data, mission logs, and live telemetry. The backend services, built using **Node.js and Express**, are deployed on Render and are responsible for message routing, packet validation, encryption, and handling real-time datalink traffic. All mission-related information is stored in **MongoDB Atlas**, where data integrity, redundancy, and accessibility are maintained through distributed storage mechanisms.

Key accomplishments of this project include:

- Real-time bidirectional data exchange between field units and command/control centers.
- Secure transmission using **AES-256 encryption** and **HTTPS-based communication**.
- A modular, scalable architecture supporting additional datalink nodes without system downtime.
- A minimal training requirement due to a user-friendly and intuitive dashboard.

From a technical perspective, the project successfully demonstrates how modern web technologies, encryption algorithms, and distributed cloud infrastructure can be combined to deliver secure tactical communication.

While the solution performed successfully during testing, some challenges surfaced, such as limited offline capability and dependency on internet availability in remote areas. Additionally, further optimization could reduce latency during peak message loads, especially when multiple units transmit data simultaneously. These limitations lead to new opportunities for enhancements and future research.

5.2 Future Work

To expand and further strengthen the Tactical Datalink System, several enhancements are proposed. These improvements aim to improve performance, reliability, scalability, and integration with broader command-and-control ecosystems.

1. Integration of Multiple Communication Mediums (Hybrid Connectivity)

Future updates may enable the system to support multiple forms of connectivity instead of relying solely on internet-based REST communication.

Possible additions:

- RF / UHF / VHF-based datalink transmission
- Satellite communication (SATCOM) support for beyond line-of-sight operations
- Software Defined Radio (SDR) support (HackRF, USRP)

A hybrid networking approach ensures that mission data continues to flow even when one channel is unavailable—critical during battlefield operations or network jamming scenarios.

2. Adaptive Encryption & Quantum-Resistant Security

Currently, AES-256 is used for mission data encryption. Future enhancements may include:

- **Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC) for faster key exchange**
- **Post-quantum encryption algorithms** for protecting communication from emerging quantum threats
- **Dynamic encryption rotation**, where keys are automatically rotated after transmission cycles

These improvements will enhance data confidentiality and ensure long-term cybersecurity resilience.

3. Real-Time Geospatial Intelligence & Tactical Overlay Mapping

The next version will enhance mission visualization with advanced mapping layers:

- Live unit tracking using GPS/GIS overlays
- Threat markers, mission zones, and geofencing alerts

- Movement prediction algorithms to estimate unit path and risk zones

This transforms the datalink from a communication system into a **battlefield visual command platform**.

4. Edge Deployment on Field Devices

To reduce dependency on cloud availability, lightweight versions of the datalink will be developed for:

- Rugged field devices / handheld tablets
- Onboard systems in UAVs, vehicles, and naval assets

Local processing enables real-time decisions even in communication blackout zones.

5. Human-in-the-Loop Confirmation & Validation

To ensure message accuracy during high-risk missions, a confirmation workflow can be added:

- Operators can validate critical messages before transmission
- AI assistance to flag contradictory or duplicate data packets

This reduces human error and avoids incorrect tactical decisions.

6. Automated Mission Reports and Communication Logs

Beyond data transmission, the system can evolve to generate:

- Mission summaries
- Transmission logs and reliability reports
- Heatmaps of communication flow between units

These automated reports help commanders analyze operations post-mission and improve strategic planning.

7. Interoperability with Military Standards

The system can be expanded to follow international tactical communication standards such as:

- **Link-16, Link-22 message structures**
- **NATO ADatP-3 formats**
- **STANAG interoperability**

This enables integration with legacy systems, aircraft, and cross-country allied operations.

8. RBAC and Multi-Layer Authorization

To enhance operational security, future versions will implement:

- **Role-Based Access Control (Operator / Unit Leader / Commander)**
- Multi-factor authentication (MFA)
- Geo-restricted access to sensitive mission data

This ensures that only authorized personnel can view or transmit critical data.

9. AI-Based Communication Optimization

Machine learning can be incorporated to:

- Predict possible communication failures
- Adjust packet size based on current network strength
- Prioritize mission-critical packets automatically

This results in a **self-optimizing tactical networking system**.

These future enhancements will transform the Tactical Datalink System from a secure communication tool into a **complete tactical coordination and battle management platform**, capable of operating across diverse terrains, networks, and operational environment.

5.3 Limitations of the Current System

Although the Tactical Datalink System meets the core functional goals of secure and real-time data transmission, several constraints were identified during deployment and testing. The current implementation relies on stable internet connectivity, which may not always be available in remote terrain or disaster-affected regions. In such scenarios, message delivery may be delayed, especially if multiple units attempt to communicate simultaneously.

Additionally, while the system uses AES-256 encryption and HTTPS-based communication, it does not yet incorporate advanced authentication layers such as MFA or geo-based access restrictions. This means that while data is secure during transmission, further improvements can be made to restrict unauthorized use of access tokens. Another limitation is the dependence on cloud infrastructure for real-time logging and storage, which makes the system less effective when cloud connectivity is disrupted. These limitations serve as motivation for integrating hybrid networking and edge-computing capabilities in future iterations.

5.4 Real-World Deployment Applicability

The Tactical Datalink System has strong applicability across multiple real-time operational domains due to its modular architecture and low-latency communication. The system can be deployed in:

- **Disaster management operations** — enabling communication between rescue teams, coordination centers, and drone surveillance units.
- **Military and paramilitary tactical coordination** — supporting secure exchange of positional or situational awareness data.
- **Transport and traffic monitoring —** connecting mobile units like patrol vehicles with control centers to monitor congestion or emergency routing.

The dashboard's minimal learning curve allows rapid onboarding, making it useful in situations where operators may not have advanced technical backgrounds. The scalability of the backend architecture allows integration of new units without downtime, which is essential in dynamic field environments.

5.5 Commercial and Defense Industry Scalability

The system has strong potential for commercialization due to its reusable architecture and configurable communication modules. It can be adopted by:

- Government agencies for emergency response automation
- Defense contractors for tactical mission planning platforms
- Private security and logistics companies for fleet coordination

Because the system already supports modular integration, vendors and organizations can embed additional APIs, such as satellite link APIs, GIS intelligence systems, or thermal-imaging drone feeds. The platform’s design enables rapid customization, allowing it to evolve into a commercial-grade tactical coordination suite.

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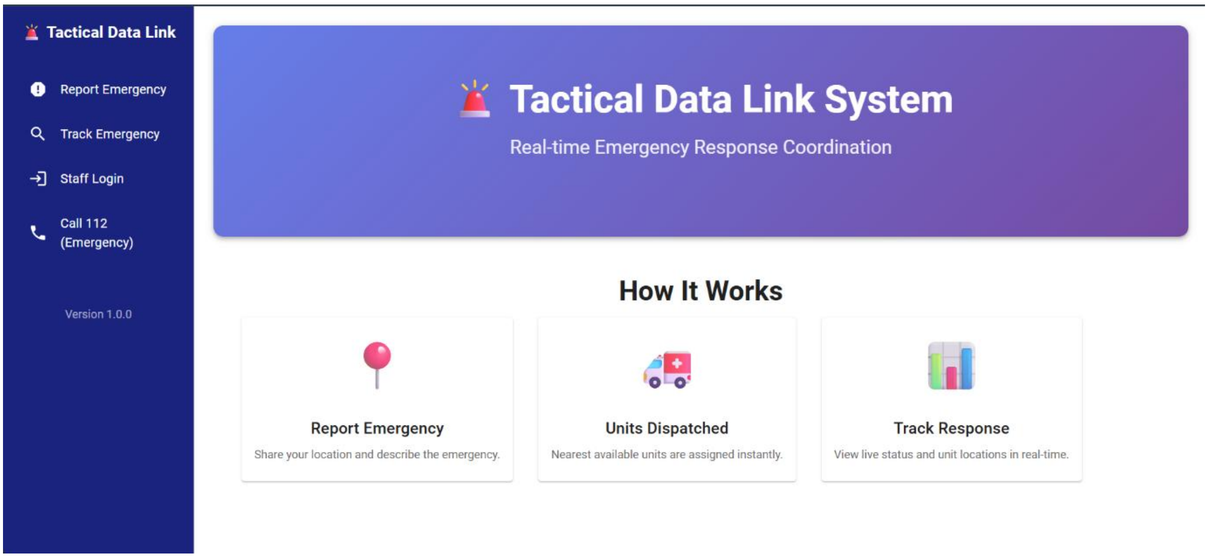
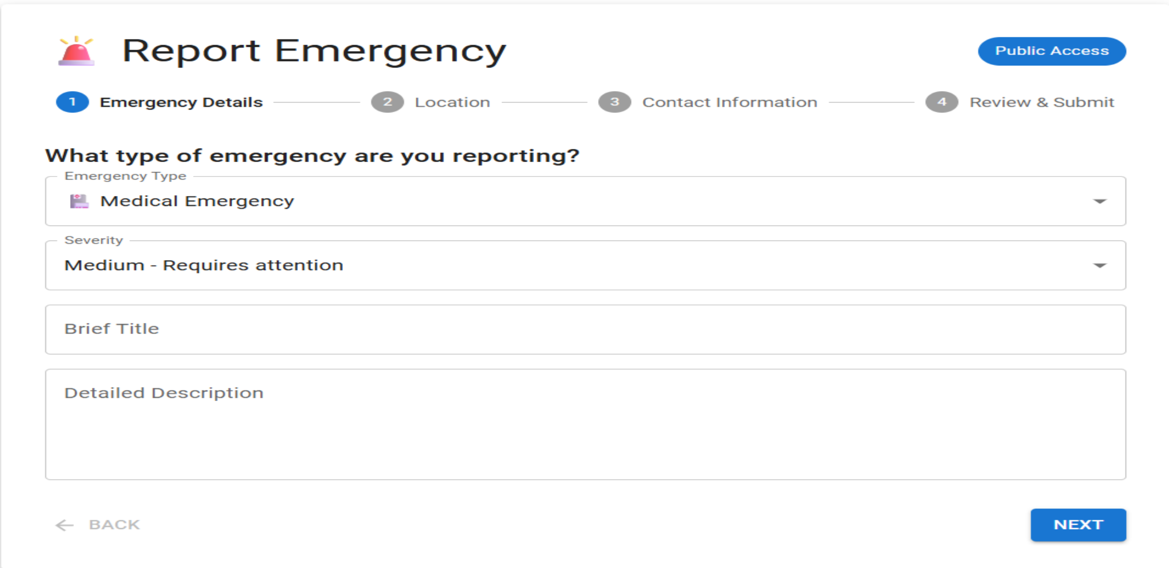
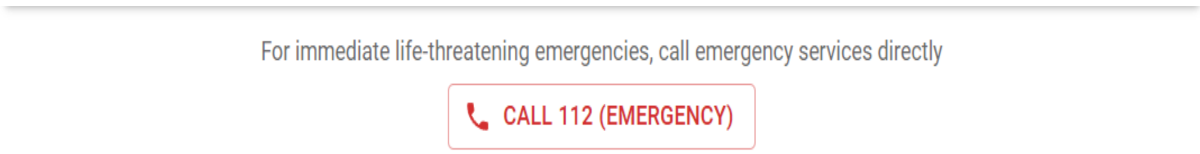
APPENDIX



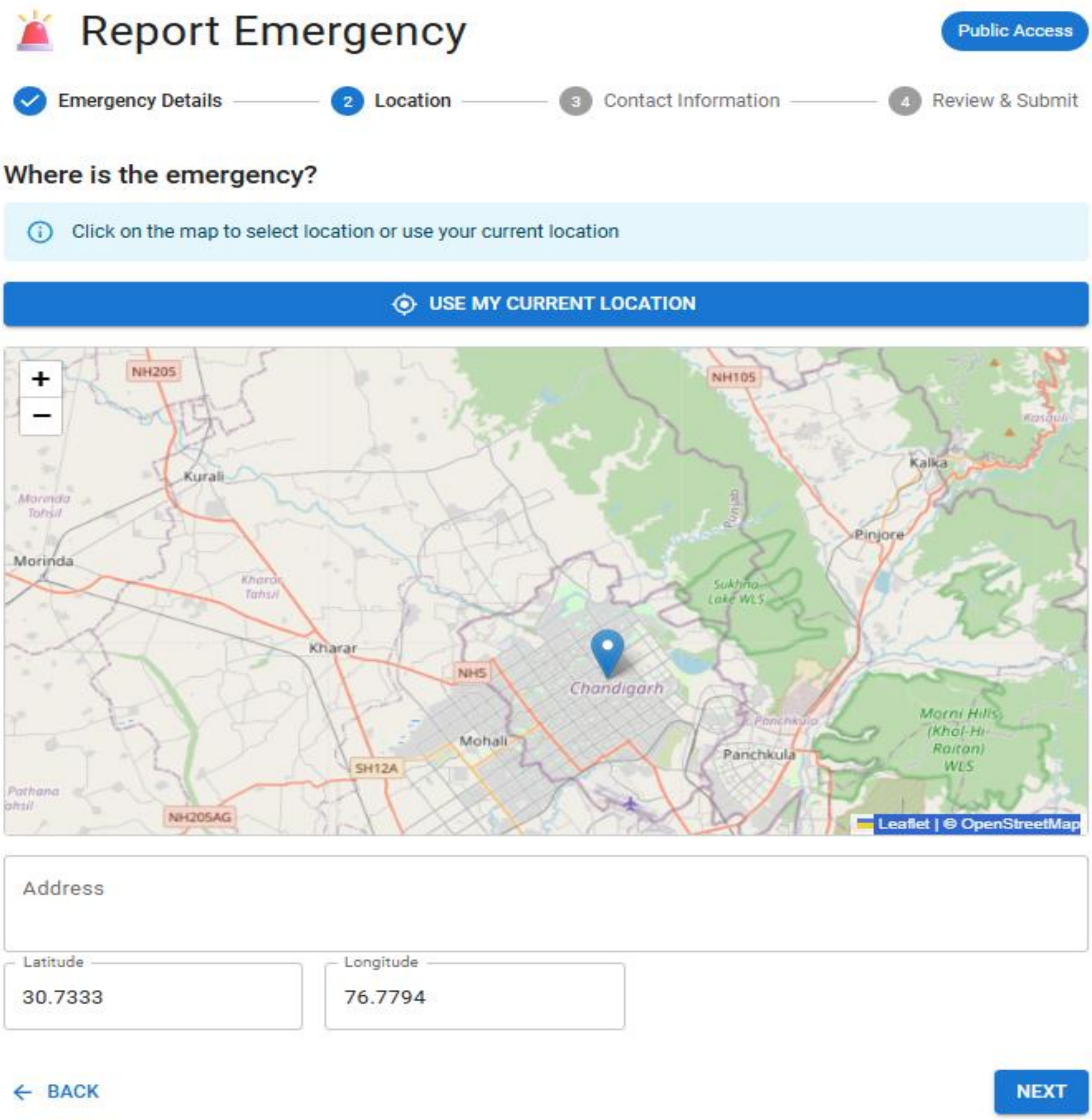
The Home Page serves as an introductory interface that showcases the Tactical Data Link System, illustrating its working principles, components, and data flow explanatory text.



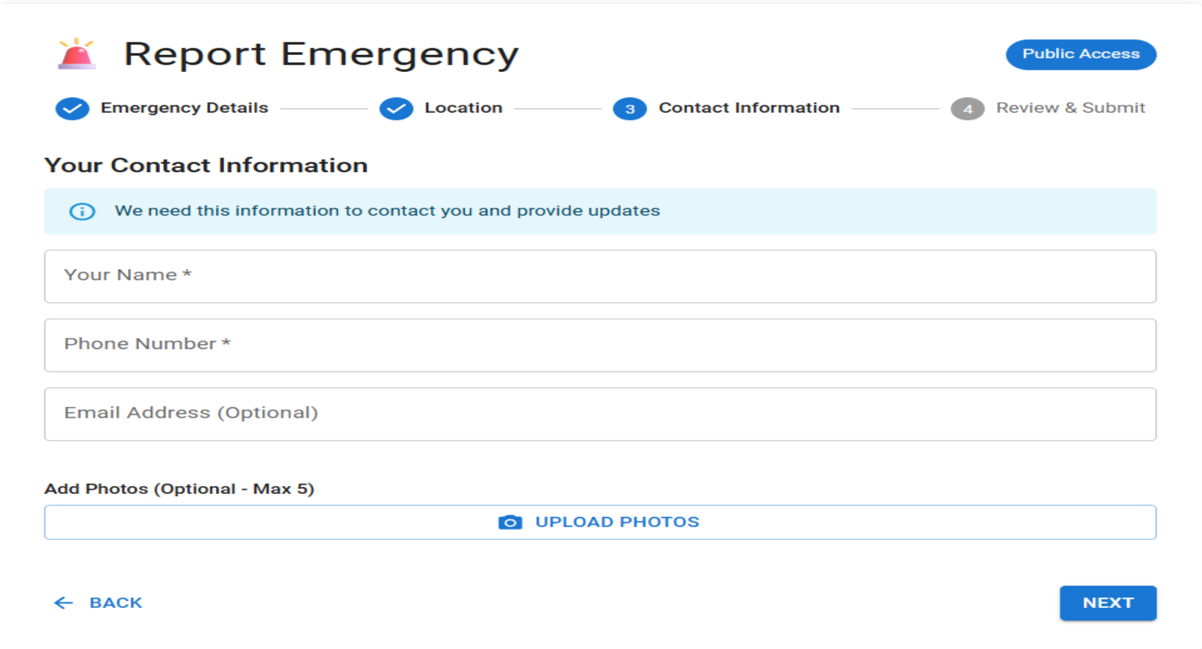
The Emergency Reporting Page allows users to instantly report emergency situations and specify the priority level of the incident to ensure appropriate and timely response.



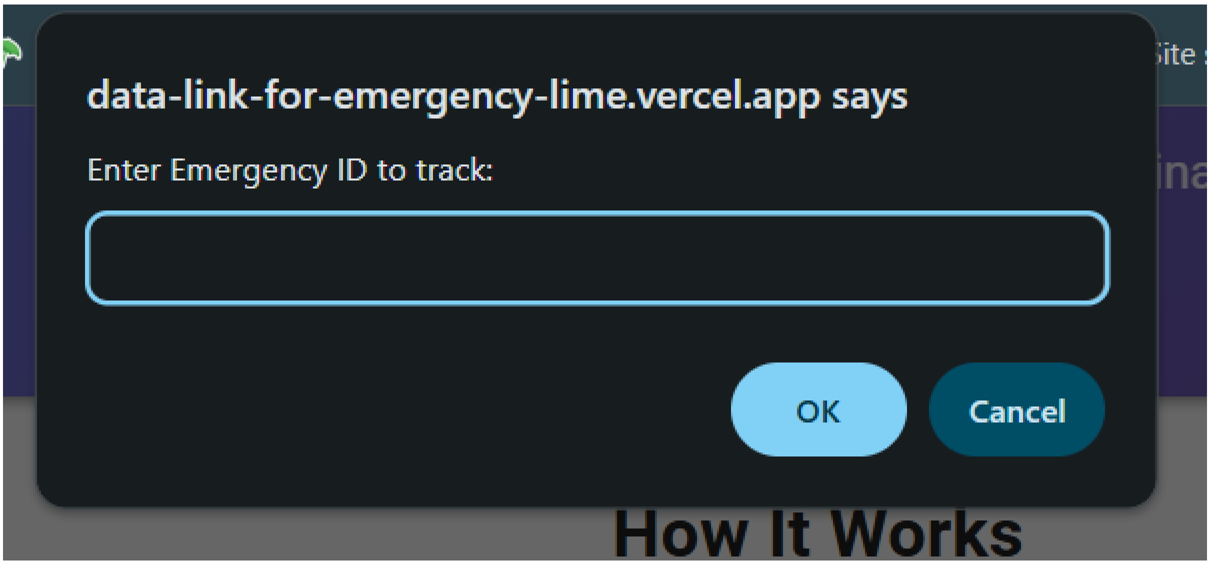
Or by clicking onto this you can directly call to emergency number which is (112).



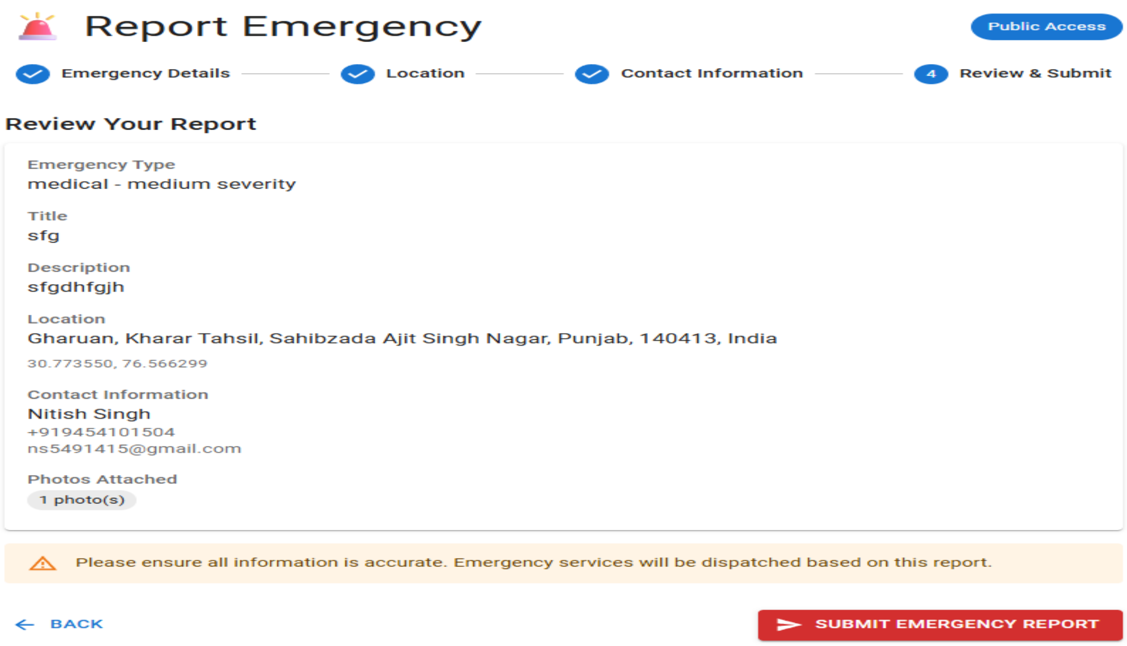
After stating the nature of the emergency, the message must include the exact location where reinforcement or assistance is required. This ensures that authorities can respond promptly and accurately.



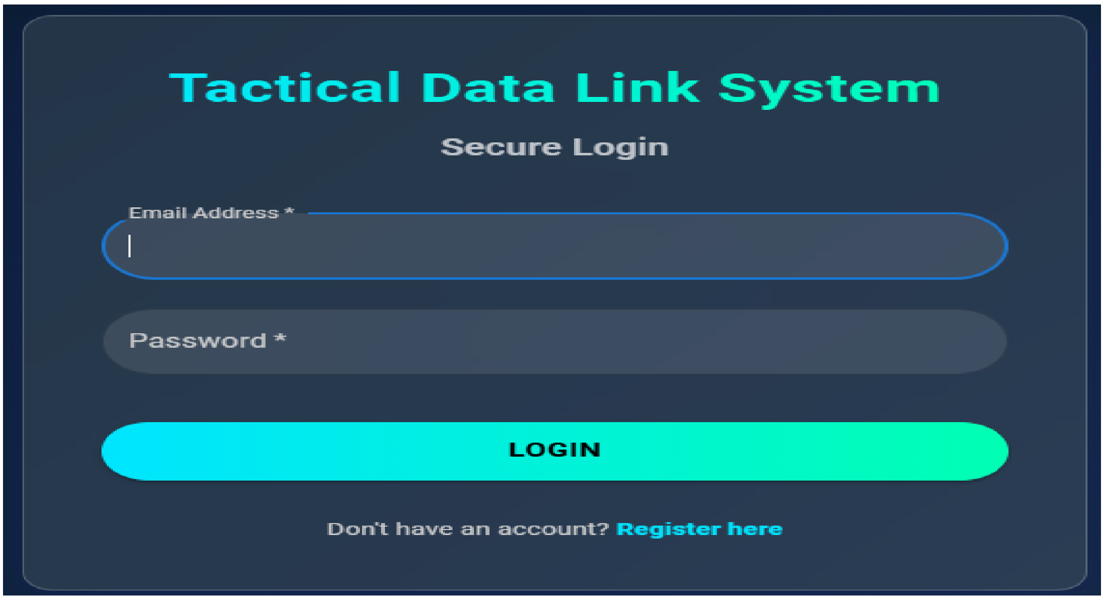
In this section, the reporter must enter their identification details (such as name and contact information) and attach a photograph or relevant image of the emergency situation to assist in validation and ensure authenticity of the report.



From track emergency we can directly track our emergency or status of emergency. And if there any issue or need to cancel our request to can change that.

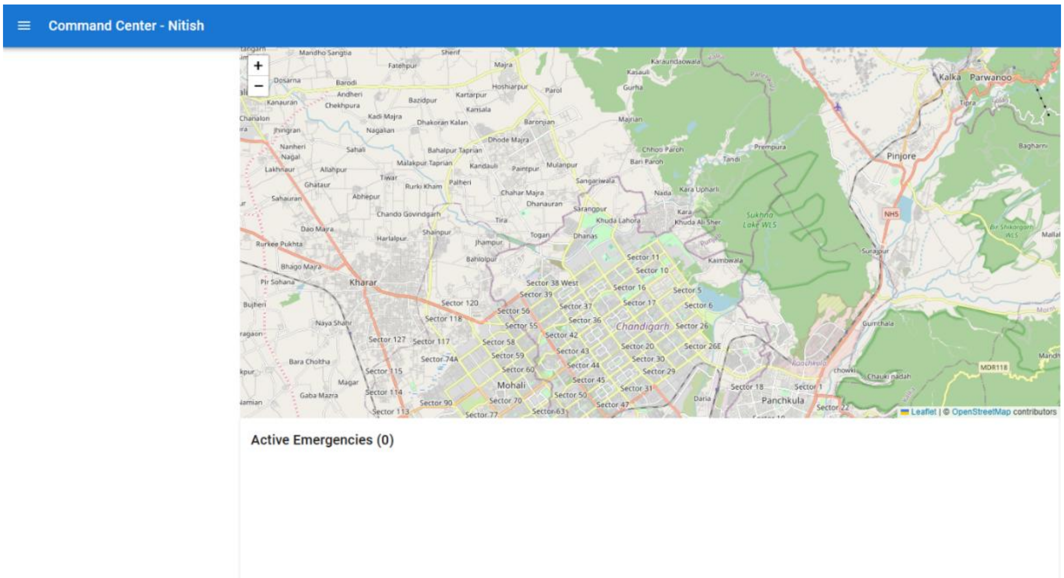


Once the details of the report are displayed, the user should verify the information for accuracy and then submit the report. This step ensures that all submitted data is correct and complete before being processed.

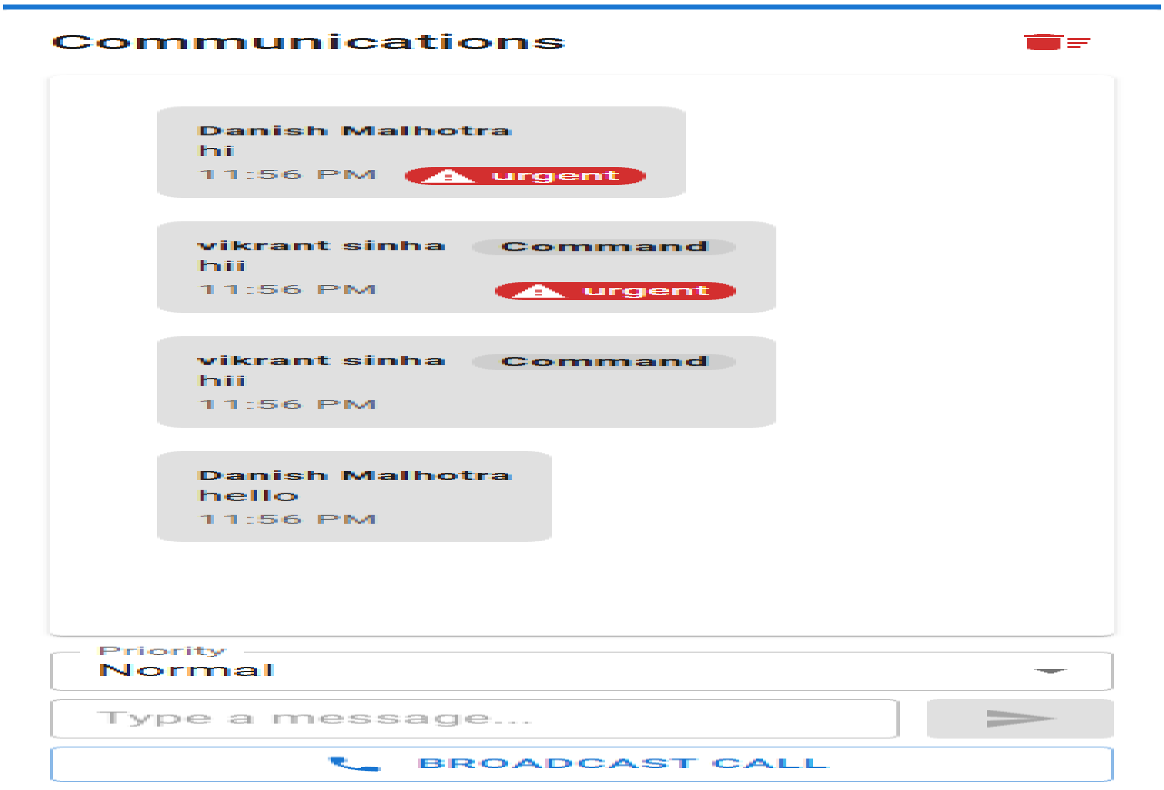


Staff members of the system can access their accounts through the Staff Login interface. This feature ensures secure authentication and personalized access to system functionalities.

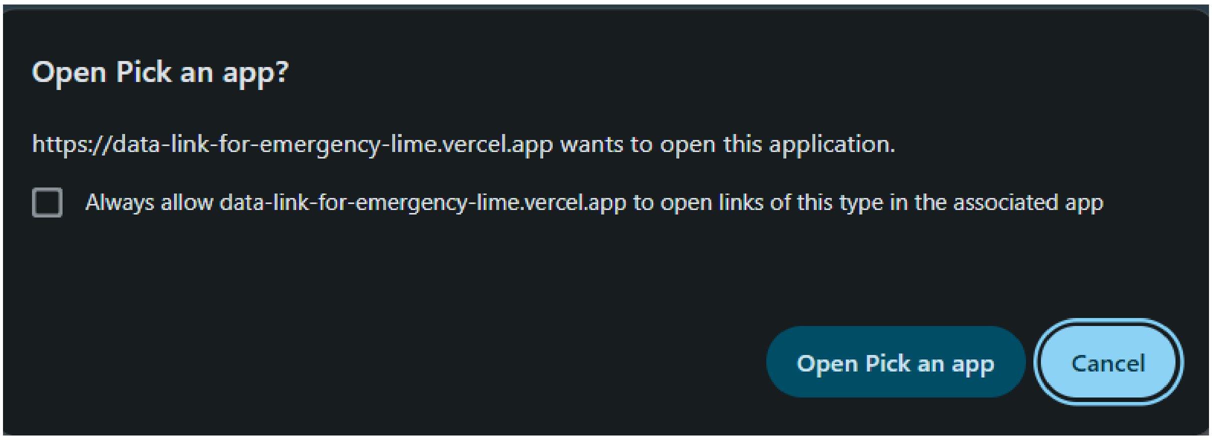
Staff or unit members who wish to access the system can create an account by registering. The registration process collects necessary details to authenticate and authorize users within the application.



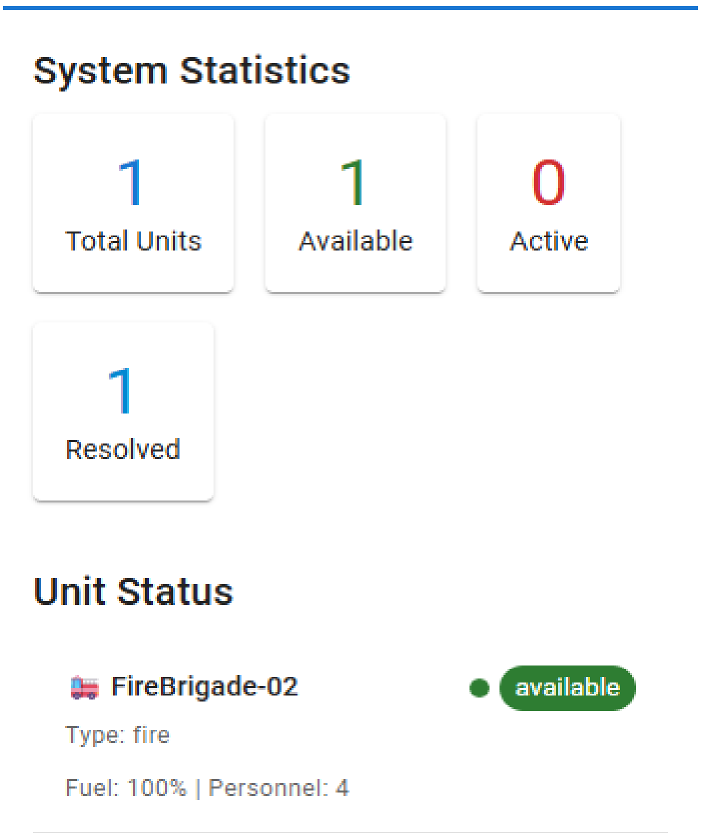
At the top-left corner of the screen, the name of the staff member is displayed for identification. Below it, an interactive map shows the number of active emergencies along with the live geographical locations where assistance is required. This visual interface helps staff members monitor real-time situations efficiently and respond promptly to critical incidents.



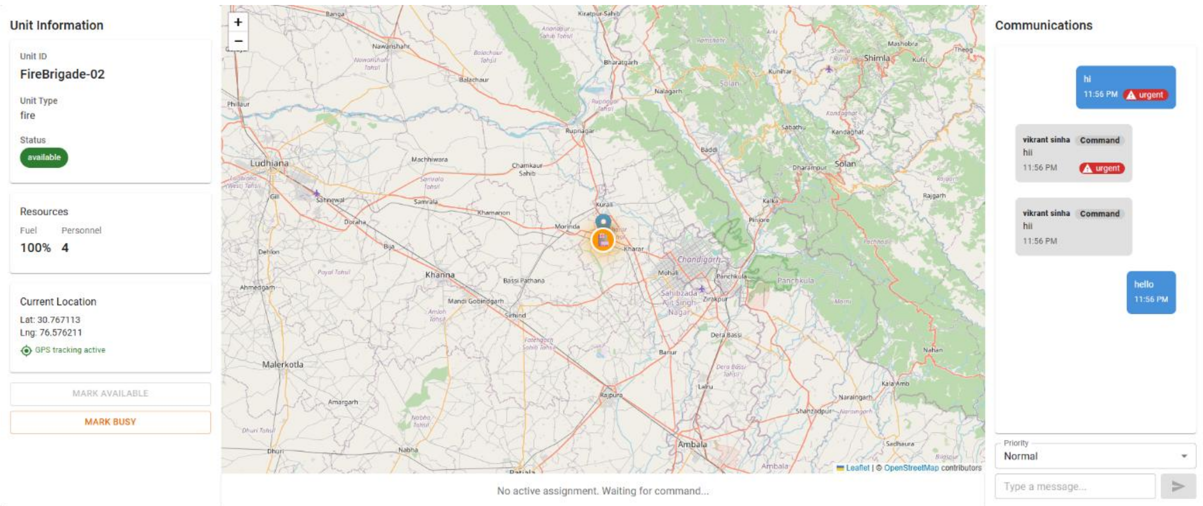
From here we can communicate we staff member and unit member according to priority and also push broadcast call to everyone.



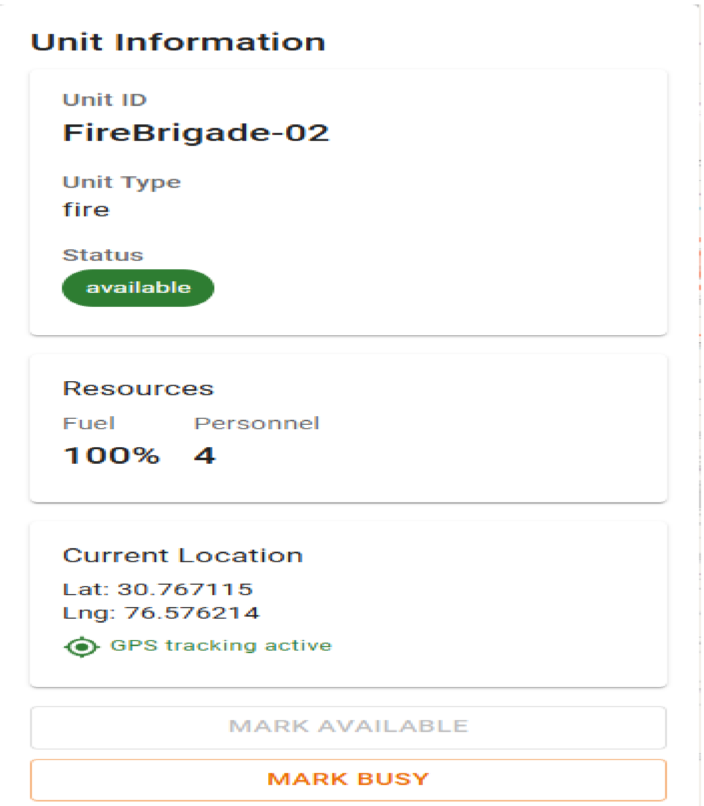
Enables direct access to emergency contact numbers without authentication. Designed to provide instant communication in urgent situations where login delays could hinder response time.



Displays live system metrics, including the number of active units, unit availability, total active cases, and resolved issues. The data updates in real time to support performance tracking and decision-making.



This page provides the details of all unit members and facilitates real-time communication. Each member can update and respond regarding their work status using the communication interface, allowing staff members to monitor progress and maintain operational awareness.



Displays each unit's ID, live location, and resource status. The system updates information in real time to facilitate tracking and coordination. Units can report resource shortages and update their availability status (busy/available).