



CYBER shikshaa

A Joint Skills Initiative of



A VISION TO

Empower



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FOREWORD

Microsoft-DSCI CyberShikshaa is an endeavour that has trained over 800 young women engineers across India in cybersecurity. More than 100 women professionals on career break have got trained in Data Privacy, giving them opportunities to re-enter the workforce in the realm of Data Protection and Data Privacy. The training program has spanned across 22 batches from 13 cities across 11 states in classroom mode, blended and fully virtual mode. CyberShikshaa students being placed successfully in global corporations, large technology services firms, start-ups and even law enforcement agencies is a highly satisfying outcome. The CyberShikshaa for Beginners program has trained and certified youth with a view to not only make them cyber-aware but also inspire them to pursue career opportunities, in this fast-growing discipline. Since its inception, CyberShikshaa was designed to bring attention to bridge the diversity gap in the cybersecurity workforce.

The book chronicles stories, testimonials and journeys of students who have carved out career opportunities in cybersecurity through this program and have developed skills in application security, network security, cyber audit, cyber forensics, and data privacy. It gives us immense pleasure to bring out this collection of success stories that will indeed be an inspiration and motivation to young women aspiring to carve a niche for themselves in the field of cybersecurity and data privacy. During the pandemic, with support from all our training partners, we were able to quickly pivot and smoothly transition to a fully online mode, which also broadened the access to this training program to young women from tier-III/tier-IV cities. Our 'Women on Break' privacy program was a first-of-its-kind initiative where young women professionals from different fields received in-depth training in Privacy and certified in DSCI Certified Privacy Professional (DCPP). Many of them, some even after a nine-year break, were able to secure placement in large corporations and resume their professional careers in a new domain.

The program has now established its roots and is popular among young women candidates who want to pursue cybersecurity as a career option. Students of the first few batches have been role models in motivating other girls to take up the challenge of enabling India as a cyber-ready nation. We particularly want to place on record our deep appreciation of our training partners and faculty members who have made CyberShikshaa a success across the length and breadth of the country.

Ashutosh Chadha

Director and Country Head

Government Affairs & Public Policy, Microsoft India

Rama Vedashree

CEO, Data Security Council of India





“

Bridging the skill gap in the niche domain of cybersecurity is a national imperative. There has been an increased participation from industry, government, and academia to develop cybersecurity skills required for India. This programme will not only provide impetus to bridging the skill gap but will also help draw more women into cybersecurity domain.

”

ajay prakash sawhney

Former Secretary, Ministry of Electronics
and Information Technology (MeitY), Govt. of India

“

As India leapfrogs into the next phase of growth, we see a multi-fold growth of digital assets. This increases the need for an enhanced cybersecurity infrastructure and advanced security solutions. India is also fast emerging as a prime destination for offshore cybersecurity R&D and security operations centres. This will lead to the next wave of jobs – one we must be ready for with a skilled workforce. CyberShikshaa is the first step towards this. We believe this is the beginning of a movement, one that we encourage all stakeholders to join in.

”

anant maheshwari

President, Microsoft India



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Skilling
Women
to do more



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CDAC

Microsoft DSC

CYBERSHIKSHAA LAUNCH

DSCI in partnership with Microsoft, and in support with Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) of Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) launched CyberShikshaa in September 2018. It was launched by Mr. Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Former Secretary, MeitY in the presence of Mr. Anant Maheshwari, President, Microsoft India; Dr. Sanjay Bahl, DG CERT-In and Ms. Rama Vedashree, CEO, DSCI.





SKILLING WOMEN IN CYBER SECURITY & PRIVACY

Under CyberShikshaa **Cyber Security Training Program**, women engineering graduates, from Tier-II & III cities and rural areas are trained in the niche field of Cyber Security. C-DAC, NIELIT and other noted training partners conduct online/offline training sessions and make the students industry ready by imparting the requisite technical skills in the domain of Cyber Security. More than 800 women have been trained under this program till now.

Both the programs entail placement assistance for the candidates among potential recruiters looking to hire for various job roles in Cyber Security and Data Protection.

In 2021, after a successful run of the initial Cyber Security Training Program, the joint collaboration of Microsoft and DSCI came up with '**Privacy Module for Women on Break**' for women professionals who are on career break due to medical, personal or any other reasons and want to make a career in Data Privacy. This is a pioneer credentialing program which equips women with necessary skills to advance their careers in the growing field of Data Privacy.





STORIES OF

change



CYBER SECURITY TRAINING PROGRAM



“ Studying at C-DAC
Bangalore CyberShikshaa
batch opened up a
Pandora’s box of learning
opportunities for me. ”

sneha banerjee

Cyber Hunt Analyst-II,
Microsoft

A PENCHANT FOR CONTINUOUS LEARNING

Discipline takes you one step closer to where you want to be. Sneha's story sheds light on how self-discipline can be the bridge making goals meet accomplishments. Here's a slice of her life.

"My penchant for cyber security started right from the school days as I secured 97% in the Information Practices subject in the 12th board examination.

While pursuing computer science engineering, I became a member of the Linux Users Group Club. Learning Kali Linux helped me become a proficient hacker. All went well for four years in college and then I joined Hewlett Packard Enterprise as a tech solution consultant. Even though I had got good functional knowledge of penetration testing and risk management while working here, I wanted to deep dive solely into the Information Security sector.

It was a risky decision for me to quit my job and join the CyberShikshaa program full time, but I went for it in March 2019. Studying at C-DAC Bangalore CyberShikshaa batch, opened up a pandora's box of learning opportunities for me. I devoted my weekends for the next six months to learn cryptography, cyber forensics, system fundamentals, and security auditing. I was getting better at my skills with each passing day, and in no time, I was recruited by a Bangalore-based firm called NSEIT Limited.

Later, I joined IIT Kanpur as a Machine Learning intern alongside my job. I worked on a deep learning-based sentiment classification model under the guidance of Prof. Laxmidhar Behera there. Luckily, I finished in the Top 50 in a CAGP competition. The internship went on for six months.

Thereafter, I became a member of the Women in Cyber Security Forum. While speaking at a webinar forum, I got noticed by the hiring manager of Nike. They were impressed by my versatile career profile and lateral growth in different domains and offered the position of a Senior Cyber Threat Analyst. Here I worked on machine learning models, incident workflow patterns, and advanced threat analytics. Each day at the office was an opportunity to learn and grow. I kept on multiplying my learnings and stacking my wins with each assignment.

A year later, Microsoft found my profile on LinkedIn and immediately recruited me as a Cyber Hunt Analyst II. People say, I got the Midas' touch because wherever I go, success follows! But I believe that if only one stays disciplined and dedicated towards their learnings, success follows. There is no other way around it!"

PRIVACY MODULE FOR 'WOMEN ON BREAK'



“ I am glad to see the cultural shift towards recruiting women on break in more and more companies and looking forward to helping other women like me. ”

vani palla

Process Manager, Standard
Chartered Bank

FROM STUMBLING BLOCKS TO STEPPING STONES

There is no rose without a thorn and no success without hardships. Vani also had her fair share of challenges to be where she is today. Hear it in her own words.

“Born in Wanaparthi, a small town in the Mahabubnagar district of Telangana, we had a modest life until my father decided to shift to Hyderabad. The place did not have any good institutes, and my father wanted all his four daughters to get the best education possible. Both my parents worked extra hard to save up for our education.

Initially, it was not easy for us to adjust to life in the big city. I was in Engineering 1st year and suddenly found myself in a classroom where everybody spoke English fluently. Whenever it came to participating in discussions and extracurricular activities, I was a shrinking violet, which affected my confidence. I had studied in a Telugu medium school all my life!

I studied hard to become an electrical engineer, but only coding and programming fascinated me. When I could not find a suitable job, and even failed in my GATE attempt, I decided to learn to code professionally. This helped me in securing an entry-level job in a small organization of seven employees. Later, I shifted to an IT services major in Chennai where I worked for 7+ years and even got the opportunity to travel to the United States for 1.5 years on a work project. I was unstoppable and brimming with confidence. This shy girl from a small town had now scaled up to a Project Manager!

But then I had to put brakes on my zooming career in 2010. My daughter wanted all my care and attention, and it was not possible to attend to her needs while being at work. In the month of October 2011, I had to put down my papers. Little did I know that this break would be the end of my corporate career, and it would be only a struggle from now on to restart.

In an attempt to utilize the break time, I did a part-time certificate program in Executive General Management Programme from IIM Bangalore in 2013.

In 2014, when my daughter turned four, I thought I was ready to work again so I reached out to my previous employer, but the company policy did not allow it. I applied to other tech companies as well, but my experience gap of four years was a big blot on my resume. From 2014-to 16, I was giving interviews and facing rejections. It took a major toll on my mental health.

I would call it a stroke of luck, when through a WhatsApp forward message in June 2021, I got to know about the ‘Privacy Module for Women on Break’ program. I did not have much hope left in me, but I still applied. In a few days, I got to know that I did not meet the eligibility criteria, but the course coordinator accepted my application considering my work experience in the IT industry.

The coursework began in an online mode, and I was hooked from the very first class. I felt connected to the subject of data privacy and was eager to learn more about it. I was the first one to get DCPD certified in my batch and got offer letters from two companies. The bad time was finally coming to an end, and it was a sigh of relief!

I am glad to see the cultural shift towards recruiting women on break in more and more companies and looking forward to helping other women like me. I wish to become one of the women leaders in Data Privacy and Protection in India. The CyberShiksha Privacy module proved to be the silver lining in my career!”

CYBER SECURITY TRAINING PROGRAM

“ I am glad CyberShikshaa found me, and I was able to route my career in this direction. ”

manjusha marar

Cyber Security Associate,
ACPL Systems Pvt. Ltd.

A LEAP OF FAITH TOOK HER PLACES

For Manjusha, it was not just a new course but also introduction to new culture and places which added to her learning and confidence. Here's a brief journey.

"I come from Kerala, and I did my schooling and BTech in Computer Engineering from there. I was a good student in school and out of medical and engineering, I opted for the latter. I taught in a CBSE school for nine months after completing college but was not very happy with it.

One day, I saw an advertisement of CyberShikshaa in the newspaper and showed it to my parents. C-DAC in partnership with DSCI-Microsoft was starting a new batch to teach Cyber Security to women engineering graduates in Noida.

They were apprehensive about me going to the northern part of the country because I could not speak Hindi. Malayalam was the only language I knew, and I had never stepped out of Kerala before. After a lot of deliberation, they agreed; and I came to Noida in November 2019.

The training began, so did my struggle with the language and culture. From my staple food rice, I switched to chapatis. My lungs gradually adjusted to the pollution in the air.

The four months of course program went smoothly; the trainer and my batchmates were kind to me. It felt like home around them. I thoroughly enjoyed working on my lab project also. Because of my good performance, C-DAC assisted me with placements after completing the program. We were also provided with mentorship and soft skills training for job.

I got selected and joined ACPL, Gurgaon as a cyber security associate in August 2019. I was hired as a trainee and in six months I was promoted. The learning curve has been tremendous since then!

What I have noticed after working in the cyber security field for two years is that there are very few women who take up this profile. It could be because of work pressure because we have to devote more than nine hours in a day. Night shifts are a regular thing. It also demands us to stay updated with the fast-changing technology.

But even after all this, it's a very promising career. The IT industry is saturated with software developers right now and they need a pool of trained cyber security professionals. I am glad CyberShikshaa found me, and I was able to route my career in this direction."

PRIVACY MODULE FOR 'WOMEN ON BREAK'



“*Motherhood should only be seen as the next chapter in their life, not as an end to the career for which they have aspired all their life.*”

bindhya jeet

Advisor- Data Privacy
and Protection, Infosys

WHEN PRIORITIZING MOTHERHOOD ALMOST COSTS YOUR CAREER

“After completing my post-graduation in Computer Science, I joined one of the reputed MNCs in financial services and banking. Time flew by and I did not even realize that I had completed more than seven years with the organization. During this time, I got married and travelled overseas for an onsite project. The project was going to get stretched for longer, and I did not want to stay away from my family any more.

I resigned and came back to India and took a short break. Then, I joined another reputed MNC. While I was settling in my new job profile, my husband told me that he has got a job in UK. I had no choice but to shift to UK with him and my one-year-old daughter. Time flew in the blink of an eye in Manchester, and I realized that my little one has started her school and I should finally get back to my career. I started looking for jobs, but my visa was going to expire, so I had to return to India.

In India, my second daughter was born, and another three years passed by while I was constantly juggling between household chores, managing the kids, and supporting my family.

I had still not dropped the idea of returning to work, but probably the companies I was applying for were in no mood to give me a chance for a comeback. I started plummeting into a shell. But as they say- tough times don't last, tough people do.

My sister-in-law kept pushing me to restart my career. In August 2019, I got a job to teach coding, but the schedule was hectic. I could not keep up with it after COVID affected us, so I had to discontinue.

It was around that time that I became a part of Aspire for Her (AFH) community which empowers women to restart their career. The CyberShikshaa program advertisement was shared by someone in our

AFH WhatsApp group. I joined the course with great enthusiasm. We had a well experienced and professional trainer. DSCI was very supportive and conducted motivating sessions with Privacy experts.

However, I could not clear the DCPD certification in my first attempt. I was not thorough with my preparation. The lockdown was at its peak and the absence of a house-help added a lot to my workload. I was on the brink of another mental breakdown. I was fortunate to have my sister-in-law and my husband by my side who encouraged me to take the exam for the second time.

I mustered all the remaining strength in me and decided to prioritize myself for the coming seven days. I kept telling myself that these seven days could be life changing and I must give my best. I took the exam, and the results came in after a few days. I had aced it! It was one of the happiest days of my life.

A few weeks after clearing the exam, I received a mail from DSCI that I have been shortlisted for an interview with Infosys. I went through the selection process and eventually joined Infosys as an Advisor for Data Privacy and Protection.

I'm glad to see that companies are giving the option to work from home to their employees. That's the best thing that can happen to women like me who have to look after their kids. I know a lot of women who have a career gap of ten years and more. Post the pandemic, they are now happily making a comeback because of the flexibility to work from home.

Only a shift in the mindset is enough to help women restart their career. Motherhood should only be seen as a next chapter in their life, not as an end to the career for which they have aspired all their life.”

CYBER SECURITY TRAINING PROGRAM

“*CyberShikshaa happened to me at the right time, and I cannot thank enough for helping me find my field of interest.*”

lahεεfah qazi

Cyber Security Analyst,
HCL Technologies

MAKING IT BIG AMID SPARSE OPPORTUNITIES

For Taheefah, a career as a software developer wasn't her calling. After exploring a lot of different fields, she finally zeroed down on Cyber Security! Here's her story.

"I completed my bachelor's in engineering from University of Kashmir in 2019. A lot of people who study computer science foresee their career as software developers. I was also one of them until I realized that I cannot spend all my life debugging errors from programming codes. In most of my attempts, a syntax error would flash on the screen, and I had to go through the process all over again. Even if the code was alright, something else used to go wrong.

I also did a few projects in college on Artificial Intelligence, Data Science and Machine Learning to expose myself to subjects other than coding, but nothing worked out for me.

One fine day, the head of our department mentioned about CyberShikshaa program to us. She had all good things to say about it. I was fully convinced to go for the course when she said that the field of cyber security could be the next big thing in tech in India. Programming was not my cup of tea, and I was anyway looking up for more options to explore.

After I enrolled for the CyberShikshaa course, our classroom training began in National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), Srinagar. The teaching methodology that our trainer used piqued my interest in the subject immediately. There was no need for us to mug up anything as everything was practice oriented. We had lab projects almost every other day. We also got the opportunity to visit some well-

known data centers and configure routers, switches, and firewalls there. In no time six months passed, and I was filled with excitement to begin my career in Cyber Security.

The best part of it all was that I didn't have to hustle to get a job. I cracked the HCL interview for the position of Cyber Security Analyst while I was doing the course. It was a very smooth process. DSCI assisted us in mock interviews in the training phase and also helped us a lot during placement drives.

There are not many MNCs in Srinagar and engineering graduates like me have very slim chances to land up in a job role that is suitable for us. It was a big relief to see things falling into place so effortlessly for me!

It's been two years now that I am working with HCL, Noida and each project that I have worked on in this short stint has been extremely rewarding for me. CyberShikshaa happened to me at the right time, and I cannot thank DSCI and Microsoft enough for helping me find my field of interest."

PROGRAMS UNDER

CyberShiksha



CYBER SECURITY TRAINING PROGRAM

Cyber Security Training Program is the marquee program under CyberShikshaa. It is a four-month, full-time program that trains women engineering graduates from tier-ii/tier-iii cities, and rural areas in the field of Cyber Security. It covers various modules such as cryptography, network security, web and application security, cyber forensics, security auditing, etc.



Program Benefits



Interactive course covering theoretical and practical aspects through case studies and lab projects.



Curriculum designed by industry professionals and in sync with industry skill demands.



Classes are conducted online as well as in physical classroom setting.



Successful students get 'Certificate of Completion' as well as placement assistance.



Completely free of cost training.



Soft skills training and mentorship from experts.

PRIVACY MODULE FOR WOMEN ON BREAK

Privacy Module for 'Women on Break' is a week-long training program for women professionals who are on a career break due to medical or personal reasons and want to make a career in Data Privacy and Protection. They are trained for the DSCI Certified Privacy Professional (DCPP) certification which is recognized in the industry and helps them to be part of an elite group of knowledgeable, capable and dedicated privacy professionals.

The key areas covered in the curriculum are Privacy Concepts and Principals, Privacy Laws and Regulations, Privacy Laws in India, Information Lifecycle, Privacy in Organizations.

Program Benefits



Become a distinguished Privacy Professional.



Financial support to cover training and certification cost.



Opportunity to be mentored by industry experts.



Classes conducted in a virtual set-up.



Placement assistance provided to certified candidates.



CYBERSHIKSHAA FOR BEGINNERS

CyberShikshaa for Beginners is an online, self-learning program for students who want to get introduced to the basics of cyber security or are deliberating to choose it as a career option.

The program was supported by Quick Heal academy as the training partner. 4660 students have successfully completed this course till date.

Program Benefits



Become aware of emerging cyber security threats and risks.



Develop an understanding of data privacy protection and its laws.



Explore career opportunities in Cyber Security.



Apply for higher studies in the subject matter.



CyberShiksha

IMPACT





CyberShikshaa started in **2018** with only **3** centers in India but now it has footprints all over India.



Since then, **22** physical classroom batches and **13** virtual batches have been successfully conducted.



C-DAC and **NIELIT** - the two premium training institutes under MeitY and other noted private training providers are key CyberShikshaa program facilitators.



Govt organizations such as **APITA** (Andhra Pradesh Information Technology Academy) and **ITDA** Dehradun (Information Technology Development Agency) have partnered in the past.



Institutions like Rashtriya Raksha University, Gandhinagar and IIIT Dharwad have successfully run Cyber Security Training Program batches in their campus in the past.



From October 2020, classrooms were shifted virtually because of the pandemic. A total of **~400** candidates have been successfully trained via online mode.

A strong corpus of **80+ recruiters** from across the tech industry have hired trained students for different roles.

800+ candidates have completed CyberShikshaa Security Training program with a placement rate of **60%**.

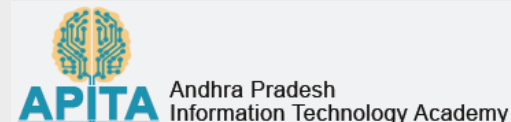
100 women who were on a career break have been trained for DCPD certification under CyberShikshaa Privacy Module for 'Women on Break'.

4660 students from **28** academic institutions have been certified under the CyberShikshaa for Beginners program.

TRAINING PARTNERS



Special thanks



CYBER SECURITY AND PRIVACY JOB ROLES

The trained candidates are eligible for a variety of job roles under the CyberShikshaa programs. Below are a few of the many roles offered to successfully placed students.

Cyber Security Roles

- Information Security Analyst
- VA/PT Analyst
- SOC Operations Trainee
- Process Engineer
- Associate Professor
- Graduate Engineer Trainee
- Security Engineer
- Security Consultant

Privacy Roles

- Process Manager
- Associate Consultant
- Data Privacy Consultant
- Advisor- Data Privacy and Protection
- Research Associate- Privacy
- Data Protection Officer
- Privacy Compliance Manager
- GDPR Consultant

RECRUITMENT PARTNERS



This is an illustrative list; not an exhaustive list of all CyberShikshaa recruiters.

RESPONSE FROM RECRUITERS



CyberShikshaa is definitely a great initiative by Microsoft and DSCI. It has given life to dreams of many aspiring women candidates. It has complimented ACPL's agenda of training and hiring deserving women candidates and bring them into the cyberspace.

Vishal Bindra,

CEO, ACPL Systems Ltd.



The market today is facing a serious cyber security talent crunch. There is a need for gender balance in this dynamic and rapidly evolving environment. CyberShikshaa allowed Capgemini to address both these aspects by building a strong cyber security foundation of women professionals.

Prathima Kasagar,

Head of Cyber Security India GDC,
Capgemini



We are associated with CyberShikshaa program for more than a year. Their course curriculum for fresh graduates is in line with cybersecurity industry needs. Their students were able to quickly assimilate with the company and our project requirements.

Neha Patel,

Delivery Head – Security Verification Services,
Aujas Cybersecurity



At Standard Chartered, we have identified the need to uplift participation in a resetting world to unleash the full potential of women. With our partnership with DSCI & Microsoft on CyberShikshaa, we have an opportunity to make this truly meaningful by scaling women's representation in cyber security careers right from the start. All of the candidates interning with us have an opportunity to learn, earn and become permanent employees at the bank. This is also a testament to the rigor and quality of candidates that CyberShikshaa is delivering to all its partner organisations. We remain committed to growing our future pipeline of talent, and partnerships like this truly help us shape our collective future for good.

Kripa Patel,

Head of Trust, Data & Resilience Global Outreach,
Standard Chartered Bank

SUPPORT FROM INDUSTRY LEADERS

Ms. Kate Behncken, Vice President and Lead of Microsoft Philanthropies interacting with alumni of CyberShikshaa in an event in Hyderabad.



Interaction with Ms. Lisa Tanzi, Corporate Vice President, CELA Global Commercial & Field Group, Microsoft, in 'Women at Security Forum', DSCI CoE, Hyderabad.



Ms. Manju D., Lead- CSR/Community Affairs, Microsoft Corporations of India (L) with alumni of CyberShikshaa Program in an event in Hyderabad.



Mr. Arunabh Mitra, Chief Continuity Officer & Crisis Management Leader, HCL with CyberShikshaa students at an 'Expert Talk' at CDAC Bangalore.

CYBERSHIKSHAA

footprint



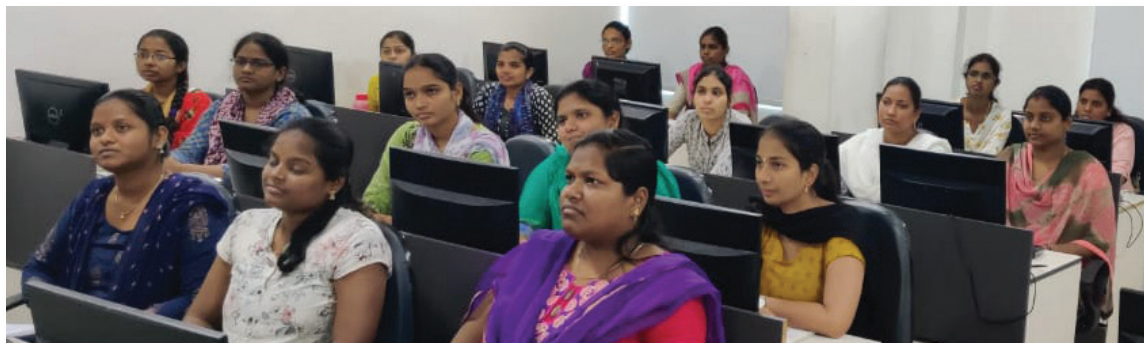
SRINAGAR BATCH



AHMEDABAD BATCH



SILCHAR BATCH

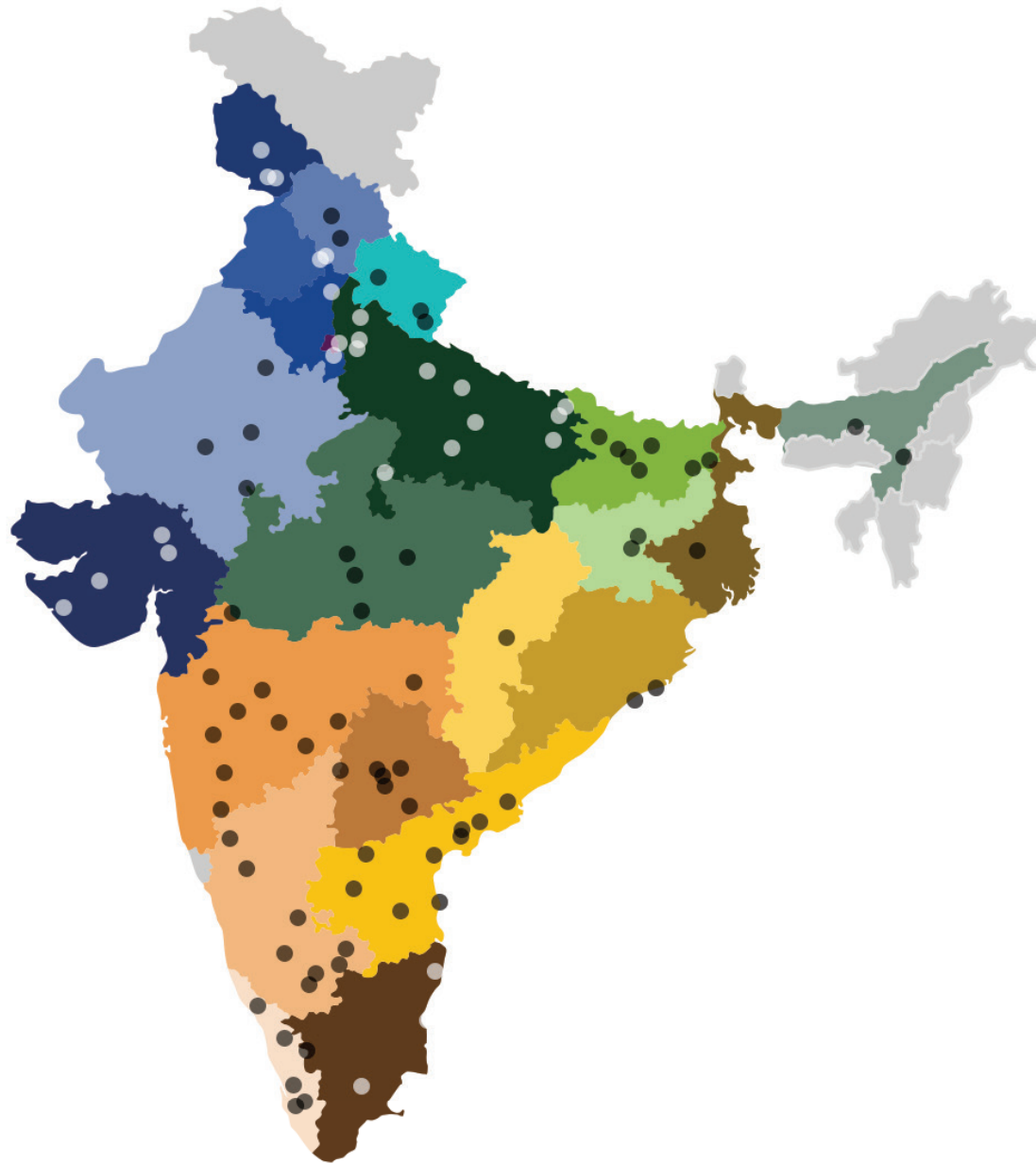


HYDERABAD BATCH

CYBER SECURITY TRAINING PROGRAM

800+ CyberShikshaa students trained in phase-I, hail from 90+ cities/districts spread across 22 states/UTs of India.

- Ajmer
- Aurangabad
- Alappuzha
- Azamgarh
- Amravati
- Ahmednagar
- Anantapur
- Bidar
- Beed
- Bhopal
- Belgum
- Bangalore
- Betul
- Bankura
- Bhagalpur
- Cuddalore
- Chandrapur
- Chittoor
- Chikkabapur
- Darbhanga
- Davangere
- Dharwad
- Delhi
- Ernakulam
- East godavari
- Fatehpur
- GB Nagar
- Gurugram
- Ghaziabad
- Gandhi nagar
- Gorakhpur
- Gangam
- Guntur
- Hoshangabad
- Hyderabad
- Hassan
- Jammu
- Jhansi
- Kannur
- Kottayam
- Kanpur
- Krishna
- Kadapa
- Katihar
- Kurnool
- Kancheepuram
- Kolhapur
- Kurukshetra
- Latur
- Lucknow
- Mahesana
- Medchal
- Malappuram
- Muzaffarnagar
- Madurai
- Mandya
- Muzaffarpur
- Maharajganj
- Medak
- Mysore
- Nanded
- Noida
- Nalanda
- Nashik
- Narsinghpur
- Nalgonda
- Nellore
- Pali
- Patna
- Puri
- Pune
- Palakkad
- Prakasam
- porbandar
- Ranchi
- Ramgarh
- Rajkot
- Satara
- S.P.S.R. Nellore
- Siddipet
- Samba
- Sitapur
- Saran
- siwan



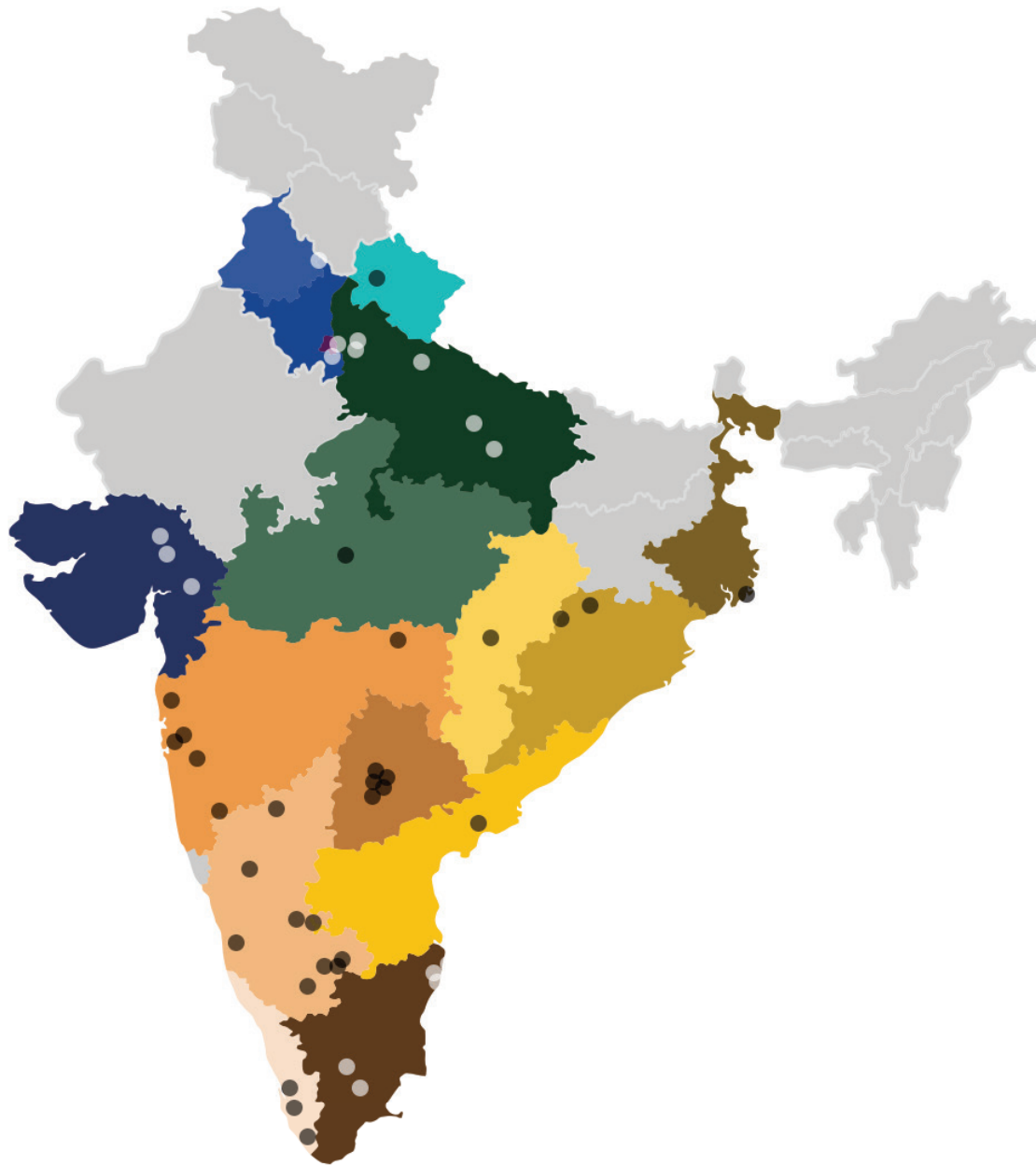
- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| ■ Andhra Pradesh (9) | ■ Madhya Pradesh (4) |
| ■ Assam (2) | ■ Maharashtra (11) |
| ■ Bihar (7) | ■ Odisha (2) |
| ■ Chattishgarh (1) | ■ Punjab (2) |
| ■ Delhi (1) | ■ Rajasthan (4) |
| ■ Gujarat (4) | ■ Tamil Nadu (3) |
| ■ Haryana (2) | ■ Telangana (5) |
| ■ Himachal Pradesh (2) | ■ Uttar Pradesh (11) |
| ■ Jammu and Kashmir (3) | ■ Uttarakhand (3) |
| ■ Jharkhand (2) | ■ West Bengal (1) |
| ■ Karnataka (9) | |
| ■ Kerala (6) | |

*Map for representation purposes only.
Map may not be up to scale.

PRIVACY MODULE FOR 'WOMEN ON BREAK'

100 Women who were on a Career Break have been trained in Privacy Module from 45+ cities/districts of India.

- Alappuzha
- Bareilly
- Bengaluru
- Bhopal
- Bijapur
- Chengalpet
- Chennai
- Chitradurga
- Davanagere
- Dehradun
- Delhi
- Dindugal
- Durg
- Gadag
- Gandhinagar
- Ghaziabad
- Gurugram
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- Kasaragod
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- Mumbai
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- Seegahalli
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- Sundargarh
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- Trivandrum
- Udupi
- Vadodara



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|----------------------|---------------------|
| ■ Andhra Pradesh (9) | ■ Maharashtra (6) |
| ■ Chattishgarh (2) | ■ Odisha (1) |
| ■ Delhi (1) | ■ Panjab (1) |
| ■ Gujarat (3) | ■ Tamil Nadu (5) |
| ■ Haryana (1) | ■ Telangana (5) |
| ■ Karnataka (9) | ■ Uttar Pradesh (5) |
| ■ Kerala (3) | ■ Uttarakhand (1) |
| ■ Madhya Pradesh (1) | ■ West Bengal (1) |

*Map for representation purposes only.
Map may not be up to scale.



A grayscale photograph of a hand holding a pen and a computer mouse on a desk. The hand is positioned on the left side of the frame, with the index finger resting on the mouse button and the pen held between the thumb and index finger. The background is dark and out of focus, showing a desk surface and a laptop. The text 'SUCCESS' is overlaid in white, and 'stories' is overlaid in yellow with a horizontal line through it. '(cont.)' is overlaid in white below 'stories'.

SUCCESS

stories

(cont.)



CYBER SECURITY TRAINING PROGRAM

“*The training I received during CyberShikshaa shored up my ability to make an impact in the cyber forensics field, and I will always be indebted for it.*”

panthamita banik

Cyber Security Consultant, CID
West Bengal, Kolkata

TAKING THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

Panthamita is the first person in the history of CID West Bengal to be hired as a fresher in their Cyber Forensics department. Hear her ecstatic journey in her own words.

"I loved studying Biology in school, but I was at my lowest in life when I had to join an engineering college after two failed attempts at the All-India Pre-Medical Test (AIPMT) exam. With half a heart, I befriended Physics because Electronics & Communication engineering was all about it. I used to mug up anything related to electronics, electricity, and electromagnetics.

After four long years, I sailed through college with a decent GPA, but did not know what to do next. I came back to Patharkandi (Assam) to stay with my parents. One day, a friend told me about the CyberShikshaa program over a chat. I enquired about it and saw that they would teach Cyber Forensics as one of the subjects. The word 'forensics' caught my interest.

I joined the C-DAC Silchar batch in September 2019. Classes were fun, and there was always something to look forward to every other day. Subject matter experts from different parts of India used to come to take our classes. Mr. Hirak Bose from C-DAC Trivandrum was my favourite tutor among all.

Even though I was confident in my learning here, I was unsure about the job prospects in the cyber forensic domain. Will I get a job? Will anybody hire me? These thoughts always made me nervous and rattled me.

When the course was about to complete, I came across an advertisement from West Bengal Police hiring for the position of Cyber Crime Consultant. I applied for it but did not get any response for months. I consoled myself by thinking that they might have halted the selection process because of the pandemic.

Out of the blue, one day in November 2020, an admit card was delivered to my mail to appear for the Cyber Crime Consultant exam for the North region of West Bengal Police. I was ecstatic!

To be honest, the exam seemed like a cakewalk because of the coursework I studied in CyberShikshaa. Even the panellists in the interview were surprised by my in-depth knowledge of cyber forensics! I cleared both the rounds and got deployed as a consultant at Alipurduar Cyber Crime Police Station.

But fate had something else in store for me! Within two days of my joining, I got another mail to appear for the same exam for deployment in the southern region of the state. I was out of my wits when I read that mail. Moving to the southern region meant I would get to work around Kolkata!

I was so excited yet nervous at the same time. I appeared for the written examination and personal interview with utmost confidence. The results came out in a few days. I was not selected to join any police station but the prestigious CID West Bengal in Kolkata! It was the happiest day of my life.

They shortlisted eight candidates to join the police stations, and only I was rolled in to join the CID because of my outstanding grade. CID in their history has never hired freshers in the cyber forensics department before.

My career has been on an upswing from then on. It has been more than a year, and the experience has been thrilling! I investigate evidence that is collected at the crime scene—mobile phones, laptops—and extract relevant information from it. The more complex case I am working on, the more I get to learn!

The training I received during CyberShikshaa shored up my ability to make an impact in the cyber forensics field, and I will always be indebted for it."

PRIVACY MODULE FOR 'WOMEN ON BREAK'



“ *The best decision out of all was to pursue a module on Privacy offered by DSCI and Microsoft.* ”

manjushree mashat

Analyst Cyber Threat Response,
Standard Chartered Bank

WHEN PASSION AND PERSEVERANCE HELPED HER FIND A WAY BACK

Every obstacle can be overcome when you are committed to your goals. Manjushree's story of determination is the striking instance of the similar notion. Here is her story.

"Even though it has been so many years since I finished my B.E. in Electronics & Communications from Vijayapura and M.Tech in Digital Communications & Networking from Belagavi, Karnataka, I still call myself a student. I have always enjoyed reading up on the latest technological developments and learning different coding languages. Besides, I have written several white papers on information security in the past that got published in reputed international journals.

I was on an upward swing in my career until I resigned from my role as an Application Engineer Network Security due to my pregnancy. My maternity break spanned a year and a half, and my anxiety kept piling up.

My days were spent nursing the baby and I had very less time for myself. I also got into the habit of scrolling my Instagram feed- watching reels one after the other. Social media does make you believe that you are learning something, but what possibly can you learn from a 30-second video? It was all a trap and I had to come out of it. The more I strayed from my aim, the more depressed I became.

One day, I decided to put an end to this stagnant life and take control. I went to stay with my mother in Vijayapura so that she can help me in taking care of my daughter, Pratikshaa. This way I managed to have four hours a day for myself, and I started doing certificate courses in Cyber

Security and Cryptography from Udemy and Coursera. I was already having a hard time finding a job, so the only best thing I could do was upskill myself. It was a great opportunity to become a student again, outside of college!

I enrolled in a remote apprenticeship at Gadag University and did an introductory cyber security course from Cisco Networking Academy. But the best decision out of all was to pursue a module on Privacy offered by DSCI and Microsoft. All of us in the batch were so motivated and dedicated to leaping in our careers. The energy was infectious!

After a month of clearing the DCPP certification, I was offered the position of Analyst in Standard Chartered's Threat Response and Cyber Defense team. Meanwhile, I also got membership in the Australian Information Security Association. I was back to work again!

Now, I am aspiring to work for the Government in the cyber security arena. While the online courses and leveraging the Internet did help me, but the icing on the cake was the Privacy Module by CyberShikshaa which helped me get back on track."

CYBER SECURITY TRAINING PROGRAM



“ *The subjects that I studied here really appealed to me and I never felt burdened or disinterested even for a day.* ”

priya ghurde

Assistant Analyst, National Digital Crime Resource
and Training Centre, Hyderabad

FROM AN ASPIRING CIVIL SERVANT TO INDIA'S TOP COP TRAINER

From being an average engineering student to becoming an analyst at police academy, Priya has come a long way. How she landed there? Hear it in her own words.

"I do not know how one decides their career path! I would have preferred to study humanities in school, but I took up engineering because my brother said it is the best career path that I can choose for myself.

It was only after my multiple failed attempts at learning coding, that I got to know I am not cut out for engineering. I was writing assignments and doing laboratory work diligently, just so that I could get my degree. I would call it a stroke of luck that I got placed as an IT consultant in Bangalore.

After a year and a half, I left my job. I have had enough of the mundane life I was living for so long and wanted to prove that I can also excel in life. The best way I could think of doing so was to start preparing for the civil services examination. I don't know what I was running after, but I was relieved to have at least taken the first step.

When I started preparing for the examination, I remember feeling so energized and engrossed. I used to study 12 hours a day at a stretch and enjoyed my routine of reading the newspaper in the morning, polity in the noon and history in the evening; but it wasn't enough, I guess. I did not clear my prelims in the first and second attempts. I got exhausted reading the same study material repeatedly, but still decided to devote one more year to preparation for my third and final attempt. Sadly, even in the third attempt, I could not clear the prelims, and that's when I finally decided to put an end to this chapter of my life.

I was out of the sinking boat, but it took a lot of time to overcome the shock of my failure. But if not anything, in these three years I learnt the importance of being perseverant in life. Giving up was just not an option. I mustered all the strength in me and started looking for different avenues. Restarting my career in the IT sector made much more sense.

I do believe that the universe always conspires in our favor, no matter how bad the circumstances are. One day, when I came across DSCI's CyberShikshaa advertisement while skimming through a magazine, I took it as a sign of new beginnings. A part of me was excited to see this opportunity, but I wanted to be doubly sure that I was confident about this choice.

I moved to C-DAC Hyderabad only half convinced that a career in the cybersecurity field could be my calling. Classes started and I got into a regimented routine in no time. The subjects that I studied here really appealed to me and I never felt burdened or disinterested even for a day. Cyber Forensics was something that excited me the most. But my anxiety would flare up now and then, and I'd approach my instructors to ask if I'd even land up in a job? The obscurity about the future was real and daunting.

Six months had passed now, and it was time for the placements to begin. Thankfully, the wait was not very long, and I got placed at the National Digital Crime Resource and Training Center. I am responsible here for training IPS officers in cybercrime investigation. Isn't it amazing? Not so long back I was only dreaming to be in the shoes of the people whom I teach now. Life does surprise us in the most unexpected ways!"

PRIVACY MODULE FOR 'WOMEN ON BREAK'



“ I wish every woman finds her way back to the workplace and her struggles get acknowledged by those around her. ”

sundaravalli

Security Consultant, EY Global
Delivery Services India LLP

A STRONG WILL TOOK HER TO GREAT HEIGHTS

"I was always active in studies I was a state rank holder in my higher secondary examination.

Then, I went on to do computer science engineering at one of the best universities in Tamil Nadu- College of Engineering, Gundy. It was a moment of pride for me, as I was the first one to go to college in my family. I got placed in TCS Chennai after graduation and after three years switched to State Bank of India. With experience came more responsibilities, and I was managing the smooth functioning of IT systems and banking software of 33 branches of SBI Chennai which had a cumulative staff of 200 people. It was hectic, but I had no complaints.

Then came the next chapter of my life and I became a mother. Choosing between work and being a stay-at-home mom was a tough choice, and I had to choose the latter. Any qualified person could take on my responsibilities in the office, but my daughter only had me to take care of her. For the next four years, my routine revolved around her feeding time, playtime, and sleep time. Watching her grow up in front of me added so much joy to my life. I also found time to read books when she was asleep.

During that time, I developed an interest in Psychology. To deepen my understanding of child psychology, I enrolled myself for a master's degree in the subject. I also did an online course on web development just to keep in touch with my field of work.

It's not like I never wanted to return to work, but I was skeptical if I'd be able to manage the duties of being a mom alongside it. When my daughter started playschool, I convinced myself to pivot my priorities a little and start

searching for a job. In mid of 2019, my search began but I had no luck. The tech industry had rapidly evolved in all these years. My experience and learnings were outdated for the current job roles in the industry.

I was losing my mind and that is when the whole world plunged into a pandemic. Companies started firing people instead of hiring new ones. From one lockdown to another, I was hastily appearing for several rounds of virtual interviews and facing rejections.

To keep myself motivated, I joined a group of women on Telegram who were looking for opportunities to re-start their careers just like me, and from there I came across the Privacy Module of DSCI. They were offering free of cost training in data privacy along with placement assistance. It was in tune with my interest and experience, and so, I bagged this opportunity.

I pursued the course, put in the effort, cleared DCPD certification, and landed a job at EY! To my surprise, I also got a 40% hike on my last drawn remuneration. CyberShikshaa truly acted as a catalyst in helping me get my confidence back. I wish every woman finds her way back into her chosen workplace and her struggles get acknowledged by those around her!"

CYBER SECURITY TRAINING PROGRAM



“ At CyberShikshaa, it was much more than just hacking. I got to learn about cyber security, digital forensics, data protection, and a bunch of other tech stuff which I did not study in college. ”

kirti kharb

Security Consultant,
Protiviti

WHEN DREAMS MEET DEDICATION

Dreams do come true. All they require is an unwavering desire, immense hard work, and the right direction. Kirti found everything with her. Hear how CyberShikshaa paved the path to Kirti's goals in her own words-

"Coming to Sonipat and settling here with three kids was a big struggle for my mother back in those days. She took the brave step to migrate to Sonipat from Giwana when I was in the sixth standard. If it was not for her, I would have never studied in a college.

I had finished my MCA when I started working in the Pension Department at Sonipat. My job was to file applications for senior citizens in the online portal. Every day it was the same work- type their name, age, date of birth on the computer; press enter & repeat this for hundred people a day. I was just a data entry operator when I could have worked as a software developer at a good firm because of my qualification. Here's the catch- there are no jobs in the IT sector in Sonipat.

Right from the beginning I knew that I was meant for bigger things in life. I was always interested in hacking and whenever I could find time, I would read up about it online. One fine day, I saw an advertisement for CyberShikshaa and jumped in excitement thinking that I'd learn hacking here! Without thinking twice, I enrolled in the course. But it was much more than just hacking- I got to learn about cyber security, digital forensics, data protection, and a bunch of other tech stuff which I did not study in college. I enjoyed every bit of being a student again!

After completing the course, I could finally bid adieu to my job at the Pension Department as I was selected for the role of a Penetration Tester in a tech company in Chandigarh. The remuneration was not too great, but the work was exciting! At the same time, I also cleared two certification courses- Certified Ethical Hacker and Certified Network Security Specialist.

But life had other plans in store for me. In March 2020, I lost my job because of the pandemic. I had to come back home, and we were in great financial distress. Everything was falling apart. It was then that I got in touch with an old colleague, and he introduced me to the world of Bug Bounty.

I got excited to try this out. I looked for people on LinkedIn who did Bug Bounty, but to my surprise, I could not find a single woman who was doing it professionally. I tried my hands on this but faced rejections for straight two months. That is when I realized that to become adept at it, I need to know the nuts and bolts of cyber security in and out. I had to study even more, and I was up for it. After a lot of hard work and patience, I finally cracked a deal, and then there was no looking back.

After seeing me do so well in my career, the sarpanch of my hometown Giwana invited me to take a session with school kids on best internet practices. I plan to start up on my own in the Cyber Security domain because I believe that it's going to have a bigger market in the coming years.

CyberShikshaa not only trained me for my career, but also instilled the belief that with the right direction I can be where I want to be.

At 27, I am married to my work, and I cannot ask for more!"

CYBERSHIKSHAA IN NEWS

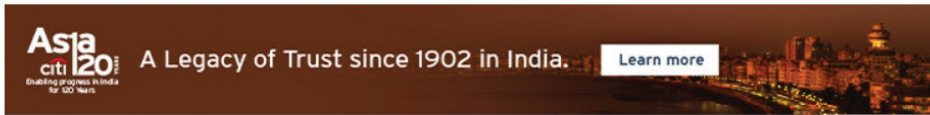
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Microsoft, DSCI launch programme to skill women in cybersecurity

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Press Trust of India
September 24, 2018 UPDATED: September 24, 2018 18:29 IST

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Home > Cities > Vijayawada

Cyber Shikshaa to make women industry-ready professionals

The initiative is a skilling programme in cybersecurity for underserved women.

Published: 08th February 2019 08:53 AM | Last Updated: 08th February 2019 08:53 AM

THE TIMES OF INDIA

City: Mangaluru Mumbai Delhi Bengaluru Hyderabad Kolkata Chennai Agra Agartala Ahmedabad Ajmer Allahabad

WEATHER: KARNATAKA ELECTIONS

NEWS / CITY NEWS / MANGALURU NEWS / Karnataka Bridging Gender Gap Through CyberShikshaa

THIS STORY IS FROM OCTOBER 15, 2020

Karnataka: Bridging gender gap through CyberShikshaa

Deepthi Sanjiv / TNN / Oct 15, 2020, 17:49 IST

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Posted at: Sep 24 2018 8:17PM

Microsoft joins hands with DSCI to launch 'Cyber Shikshaa' in Capital

New Delhi, Sep 24 (UNI) With an objective to create skilled and industry ready women professionals in the field of Cyber Security, Microsoft in collaboration with Data Security Council of India (DSCI) on Monday launched a professionals course 'CyberShikshaa' in New Delhi.

UNI Photo

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Cybersecurity Published: 05th November 2020

How this programme has trained over 500 young women in cybersecurity

This is a four-month-long course for women who aspire for better opportunities. They have done this so far for over 500 women already and this is how they continue to tread the path successfully

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Microsoft and DSCI launch CyberShikshaa to train women in cybersecurity

As part of the initiative, 1,000 women from underserved communities will be trained in ten locations across the country and offered employment opportunities

Friday, 26 August 2022

The Tribune VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Cyber Shikshaa Skill Scholarship

Women engineering graduates, who are interested in pursuing their career in cyber security, are invited by Microsoft & scholarship, and be a part of their four-month free training programme.

#SWARAJYA Our View Headlines Magazine Videos

'Cybershikshaa' For Women: Microsoft Pitches In With Three Year Cybersecurity Course For Women From Weaker Sections

by Swarajya Staff - Oct 3, 2018 02:54 PM +05:30 IST

FRI, AUG 26, 2022 | UPDATED 19:38 IST

ANI South Asia's Leading Multimedia News Agency

Registration for Cyber Shikshaa Skill Scholarship for women begins in Vijaywada

ANI | Updated: Feb 07, 2019 18:10 IST

Vijaywada (Andhra Pradesh), [India], Feb 7 (ANI): The registration process for Cyber Shikshaa programme, initiated by Data Security Council of India (DSCI), Microsoft and Andhra Pradesh Information Technology Academy (APITA), started here on Thursday.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Microsoft, DSCI tie up for free cyber security training to 1,000 women

PTI / Sep 24, 2018, 18:34 IST

CRN India Take the migraine out of migration. Discover Carbonite® Migrate.

Standard Chartered partners with Microsoft and DSCI to bridge the Cyber Security Skills and Gender Gap

By CRN Team - March 16, 2021

A joint Skills Initiative of Microsoft & DSCI

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to thank each and every individual who has been associated with CyberShikshaa and put efforts to make it a success.

Additionally, this could not have been possible without the support from all our training partners, trainers, recruiters, mentors, and others who contributed towards the success of CyberShikshaa and draw young women talent into Cyber Security and Privacy.

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About DSCI

Data Security Council of India (DSCI) is a not-for-profit, industry body on data protection in India, setup by NASSCOM®, committed towards making the cyberspace safe, secure and trusted by establishing best practices, standards and initiatives in cyber security and privacy. DSCI works together with the Government and their agencies, law enforcement agencies, industry sectors including IT-BPM, BFSI, CII, Telecom, industry associations, data protection authorities and think tanks for public advocacy, thought leadership, capacity building and outreach initiatives.

CYBER Shikshaa

A Joint Skills Initiative of



CyberShikshaa - A Joint Skills Initiative by Microsoft & DSCI

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