

Strengthening India's Cybersecurity Ecosystem through CSR Initiatives



DATA SECURITY COUNCIL OF INDIA



Overview

India now has 969.10* million internet users, who are not only contributing towards an unprecedented global digital footprint but are also accelerating the country towards becoming one of the world's largest digital economies. Cybersecurity here emerges as an essential requirement for both organisations and individuals. With the government's accelerated push towards digital inclusion, the dependence on digital infrastructure will only increase.

Moreover, the nation's envisioned dream of a trillion-dollar digital component, accounting for one-fifth of the \$5-trillion national economy, is not devoid of growing cyber threats and attacks.

Major Challenges to resolve:

Limited Public Awareness of Cybersecurity:

Cyber threats are today no longer confined to major corporations—a vegetable vendor, a school student, an everyday citizen—all have become equally vulnerable. The internet, once seen as a space of opportunity, is becoming risk-prone, especially for those who lack the awareness or tools to navigate it safely. School children stand at a unique intersection of digital exposure, as internet use for education, entertainment, and daily interactions makes them sensitive targets.

Skilled Cyber Workforce with widened Gender Gap:

India faces a significant cybersecurity talent gap despite being a global technology hub. The demand for skilled professionals far exceeds supply, as escalating cyberattacks outpace response capabilities by organisations. This shortage exposes critical business infrastructure to risk. Additionally, women workforce in cyber remains significantly low calling for efforts to bridge this talent gap.

Preparedness against Cybercrimes:

With rising digitisation, citizens face rising instances of cybercrimes. The country needs better resources to handle, investigate and redress cybercrimes. There is a need to actively monitor cybercrimes and find trends to lower cybercrime rate as well as resolve cases at the earliest. This requires trained law enforcement agencies including police, judiciary and investigation agencies keeping ahead of emerging cybercrime techniques.

Alongside the challenges, today cybersecurity also provides opportunities to build capabilities and world class solutions which can elevate India's position in the global map as well as strengthen our national security. Under these scenarios, we have identified few areas where we seek collaboration from the industry to drive the abovementioned objectives together and create a better cyberspace.

CSR Funnel for Industry Collaboration

The Data Security Council of India (DSCI), a premier not-for-profit body set up by Nasscom, plays a pivotal role in driving transformative action at the intersection of security, education, and social impact. Committed to making India's cyberspace safe, secure, and trusted, DSCI is implementing high-impact Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives aligned with national digital priorities.

DSCI invites industry-partners to further this vision across below identified spheres:

1. Cyber Awareness for School Students

To implement nationwide cybersecurity awareness campaigns for school students and equip young digital users with the knowledge to navigate the online world safely.

2. Skilling Women in Cyber

To upskill India's young talent pool, especially underserved women populace through intense cybersecurity courses to unlock new career pathways for them and bridge the gender gap.

3. Infrastructure Support for Cyber Skill Centres

To create learning and collaboration space which facilitates various programs and initiatives to further cyber education, awareness and building capacity for professionals in cybersecurity through latest infrastructure and courses.

4. Capacity Building for Cybercrime Investigation & Forensics

To build critical capabilities in cybercrime investigation and cyber forensics through training and equipping law enforcement, govt. agencies and industry to work towards cybercrime redressal across the country.

5. Model Cyber Centres of Excellence

To establish India as a global hub for cybersecurity by supporting entrepreneurial spirit in cyber startups, finding opportunities through research and development with academia, and build thought leadership to promote 'Brand India'.

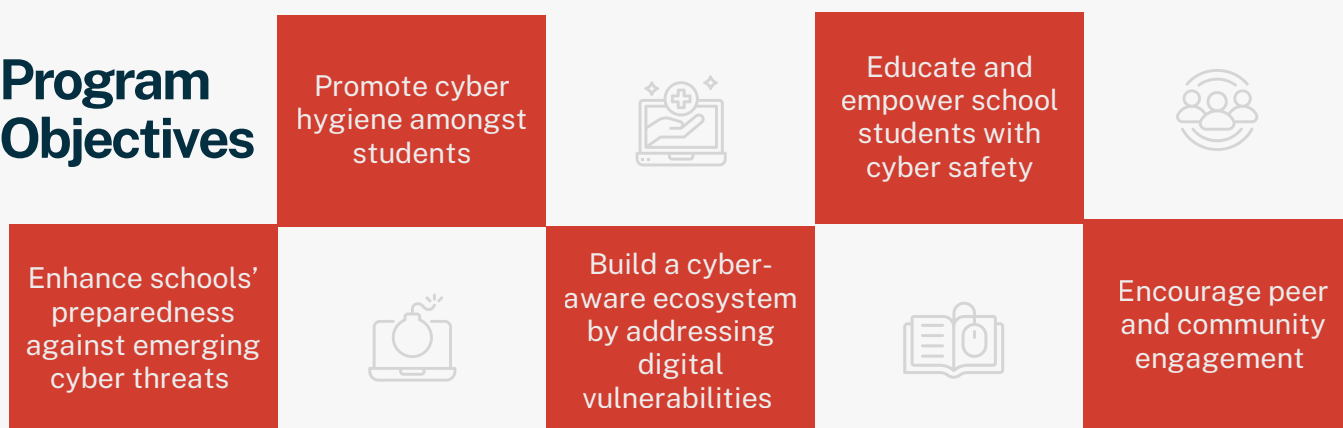
1. Cyber Awareness for School Students

As part of the vision to raise cyber awareness for school students, DSCI's conceptualized program, Cyber for YOUTH, is dedicated to empowering school students with critical cyber literacy skills. The program is aligned with the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4 on Quality Education to equip learners with essential skills and knowledge.

Started in 2023, the program is designed for students from grades 6th to 12th. The program equips young learners with the knowledge and confidence to navigate the digital landscape safely and responsibly.



Program Objectives



Program Mode

- Dedicated three-day trainer-facilitated classroom learning program
- Collaborative partnership with teachers and cybersecurity experts
- Region-specific case study and live demonstration-driven practical learning
- Pre and post assessments for students to gauge subject understanding
- Enriched engagement with poster-making, quiz, cybersecurity pledge and certification

Learning Facilitators

An exclusive awareness booklet enshrined as 'Cyber Smart Rani' for guided learning on safety tips

A cyber and privacy awareness fundamental guide detailing wide-spread security threats

Posters guided by experts and created by students on critical cybersecurity themes



Impact

14000+

beneficiaries reached
(inclusive of teachers and
students) till date

42

schools covered across the states
of **Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and
Karnataka** till date

Industry Partners

SISA
Forensics-driven Cybersecurity

2023



British
High Commission
New Delhi

2024

payU

2025

 CTBC BANK

2025



Associated Program

Cyber Sainik

In line with the objectives of Cyber for YOUth, Cyber Sainik was started in partnership with Kyndryl in 2024 as an exclusive three-year awareness program.

Industry Partner

kyndryl.

Phase 1 | Karnataka | 2024

Phase 2 | Gujarat | 2025

Past Programs

Cyber for HER Hackathon

To promote inclusivity in cybersecurity education, the Cyber for HER initiative, supported by the British High Commission, New Delhi and sponsored by Rubrik, aimed to empower young women aged 18-23 years and support the development of India's cyber workforce with a two-phased hackathon.

Cyber Surakshit Gujarat

A bilingual cyber awareness campaign was run across 8 districts in Gujarat to promote cybersecurity for school children aged 13–17 years, with the support of the British High Commission, New Delhi, and led by the Gujarat Police, with DSCI associated as the knowledge partner.

Awards and Recognition

The Cyber for YOUth program was recognized at the 11th Greentech Foundation Awards in the 'Promotion of Education' category in 2025.



2. Skilling Women in Cyber

DSCI's women skilling initiative intends to enhance women representation in the cybersecurity workforce and create future ambassadors of cybersecurity across the country. The undertaken programs as part of the initiative, address critical gender and skill gap by providing specialized, industry-aligned training to women engineering graduates from tier-I and tier-II cities.

Program Objective

Educate young women to empower and improve their workforce representation in the domain of cybersecurity



Program Mode

- Industry-led expert sessions for improved learning
- Hands-on training over core cybersecurity territories
- Delivery of specialized programs over a period of one to four months
- Dedicated mentorship and placement support for industry job opportunities
- Soft skills development to improve overall selfhood
- Provide students with credible course completion certification

Impact

6000+

beneficiaries reached
till date

800+

placement offers
till date

Industry Partners



2018 -2024

kyndryl foundation

2024



Associated Programs

**CYBER
Shikshaa**

**DSCI-Microsoft
Collaboration**

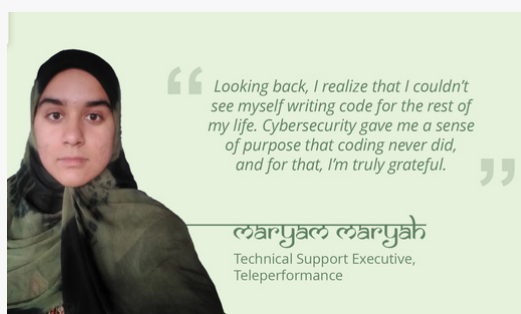
DSCI in partnership with Microsoft and in support with Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) of Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) launched CyberShikshaa in September 2018 to train and support women from tier-II, tier-III cities as well as rural areas, and align a career path for them in the cybersecurity industry. The program is offered to students without any incurred fee.



Programs under CyberShikshaa

Cyber Security Training Program	Privacy Module for Women on Break	CyberShikshaa for BFSI	CyberShikshaa for AI/ML	CyberShikshaa Fundamentals
A 4-month, full-time program for women engineering graduates aged 21-27, with a family income below ₹7 LPA.	A week-long privacy training program for women professionals with 3-4 years of experience, returning to work after a minimum 6-month career break.	A 6-month residential training program in the BFSI sector for women aged 21-27, with no prior work experience.	A 4-month training program in AI/ML for women engineering graduates (B. Tech/B.E.) aged 21-27.	An online, self-paced learning program for students aged 19-24, offering an introduction to cybersecurity as a career option.

Success Stories



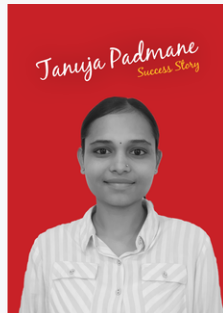


Started by Kyndryl Foundation and DSCI in June 2024, Cyber Vaahini empowers women engineering graduates from tier-II and tier-III cities with in-demand cybersecurity skills. It offers a four-month, partner-funded training course that addresses key cybersecurity aspects while providing placement assistance.

Success Stories



What made the biggest difference was the hands-on training. Slowly, I began to see myself not just as a student, but as a future cybersecurity professional.



Tanuja Padmane
Success Story



Cyber Vaahini changed how I saw myself. It gave me not just skills—but confidence, clarity, and courage.



Jagruti J. Kulkarni
Success Story

Awards and Recognition

- The CyberShikshaa program was recognized at the 11th Greentech Foundation Awards in the 'Gender Equality and Empowering Women' category in 2025.



- CyberShikshaa received a global recognition for the Strategic Cybersecurity Talent Framework as a case study in World Economic Forum.

3. Infrastructure Support for Cyber Skill Centres

In order to promote cybersecurity awareness and education at various levels, DSCI has created the first model training centre in Mumbai. With a vision to create more such learning spaces, the advanced training centres will feature state-of-the-art infrastructure, training labs, latest computer systems and hybrid training models. Well-equipped spaces bring this vision to life through dedicated skill centres. These centres serve as foundational pillars in building a future-ready cybersecurity workforce.

Centre Objective

Impart cybersecurity education and career paths through advanced training labs and simulation facilities.



DSCI Advanced Cyber Skill Centre

The DSCI Advanced Cyber Skill Centre aims to provide a dedicated space for students across various initiatives and is a state-of-the-art training facility located at CII's Model Career Centre for aspiring cybersecurity professionals. The centre is supported by Kyndryl Foundation, as the pioneer partner of the institution alongside other contributors including Onward Technologies, KSMT Foundation, AZA Fashion and Mastek Foundation.

Located in India's financial capital, Mumbai at Kandivali, the centre is equipped with sound technical infrastructure to support the learning of young students with a special emphasis on women for bridging the gender gap in the cybersecurity industry.

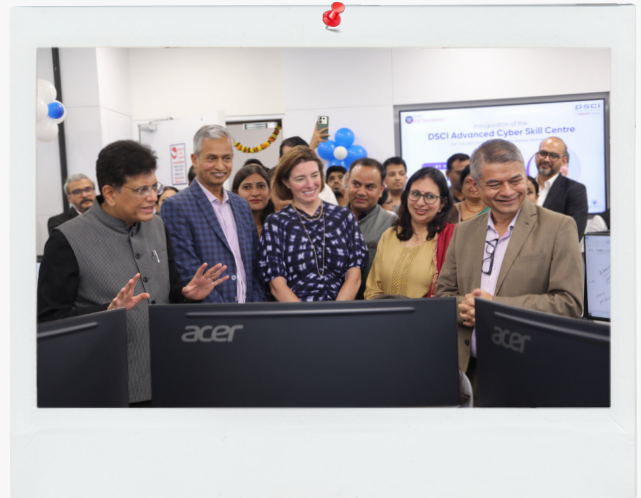
Pioneer Partner

kyndryl.foundation

Contributors



Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Commerce & Industry Minister, Government of India inaugurated the DSCI Advanced Cyber Skill Centre in Mumbai.



Centre Highlights

Advanced training labs equipped with latest cybersecurity tools

Dedicated experience zone for interactive exploration of concepts and challenges

Virtual labs and simulators with real-world threat scenarios

Expert-led training sessions from industry experts and practitioners

Access to hybrid training models with hands-on lab sessions

Courses ranging from basics to advanced SOC, threat hunting, incident response & more

Exposure to cyber war game scenarios like red (offensive) and blue (defensive) team exercises

Community-driven learning enabled with workshops, hackathons, capture-the-flag (CTF) events, and meetups

4. Capacity Building for Cybercrime Investigation & Forensics

DSCI's vision to foster capacity building for cybercrime investigation and forensics has been realized with the establishment of the Centre for Cybercrime Investigation Training & Research (CCITR) in partnership with CID Karnataka and Infosys Foundation in 2019.

Centre Objectives

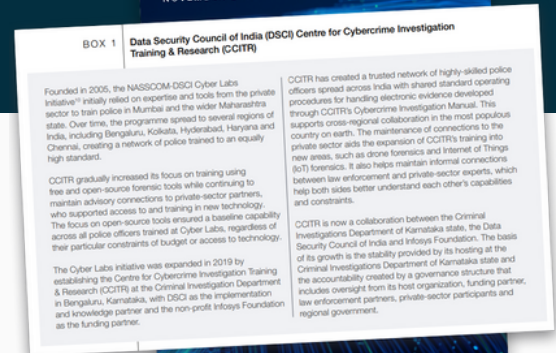
- Capacity building of police, prosecution, judiciary in handling technology investigation.
- Create Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in cybercrime investigations.
- Research related to legal, technical & procedural aspects of cybercrime investigation.
- Improving the investigation and prosecution of cybercrime cases in Karnataka.

Key Highlights

- The fourth edition of the Cybercrime Investigation Manual was released by the Hon'ble Home Minister of Karnataka, Dr. G. Parameshwara. This comprehensive edition comprises three volumes, spanning 31 chapters along with detailed annexures. The manual provides in-depth overview of the legal, technical, and procedural aspects of cybercrime investigation and serves as a practical guide for law enforcement officers across the country.



- CCITR featured in a World Economic Forum (WEF) whitepaper for its significant role in shaping India's cybercrime investigation ecosystem.



Impact

6200

Officials trained under virtual training series for Karnataka State Police (during last financial year)

5900+

Individuals trained under outreach programs (during last financial year)

2300

Individuals trained under long and short courses (during last financial year)

14400+

Total personnel trained (during last financial year)



5. Model Cyber Centres of Excellence

To strengthen the country's cybersecurity research and entrepreneurial landscape, DSCI has established a network of model Cyber Centres of Excellence at both national and state levels. These centres work towards building an ecosystem for cybersecurity technology development, product entrepreneurship, market adoption, and positioning India as a global hub for cybersecurity.

Centre Objectives

- To build a national ecosystem for cybersecurity and establish Indian thought leadership in the global domain
- Translating R&D to Security Products
- Productization and Commercialization of Research IPs

Associated CoEs



**National Centre
of Excellence**
CYBERSECURITY TECHNOLOGY
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The National Centre of Excellence for Cybersecurity Technology Development (NCoE) is a joint initiative between the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) and Data Security Council of India (DSCI) to make coordinated efforts for catalysing and accelerating cybersecurity technology development and entrepreneurship in the country.

Impact

153

Start-ups
incubated
(till date)

06

Incubation rounds
(during last
financial year)



Centre for Hardware
Security Entrepreneurship
Research & Development

C-HERD stands as an ambitious initiative championed by MeitY and led by DSCI in partnership with IIT Kharagpur and IIT Madras for deep technology hardware security. It strives to enhance awareness, impart training to skilled professionals, and promote research and entrepreneurial activities in the field of hardware security by fostering collaboration among industry, academia, government, and defence sectors.

The Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (CCoE) is a joint initiative of the Government of Telangana and DSCI, to promote and encourage innovation, entrepreneurship, and capability building in cybersecurity and privacy with the help of best practices, standards, and industry initiatives. As a cybersecurity hub based in Hyderabad, Telangana, CCoE nurtures a culture of innovation by incubating start-ups, conducting trainings/workshops/events, showcase products in experience zone and collaborate in national and international initiatives.



Impact

64

Start-ups
incubated
(till date)

12

Academic collaborations
(during last financial
year)



Initiatives in News



DSCI, British High Commission start cyber awareness drive in 15 schools in Madhya Pradesh



Kyndryl, DSCI join hands to train 25,000 students on cybersecurity



Technology not only about economic growth: Nadella



Union Minister Piyush Goyal launches Advanced Cyber Skill Centre in Mumbai



Piyush Goyal inaugurates DSCI advanced cyber skill centre in Mumbai with aim to empower the youth and women



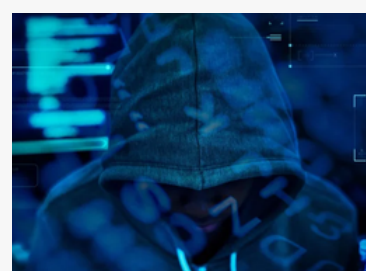
Study of money mules in Karnataka cybercrimes calls for regulation of cryptocurrency to check galloping crime rate



DSCI Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence hosts Cybersecurity and Privacy Conference



Infosys Foundation grants Rs 33 crore to police to tackle cyber crimes in Karnataka



Cyber for HER Hackathon Witnesses Nationwide Participation of Young Women in Cybersecurity

Learn More about the Initiatives

CSR for Cyber

<https://www.dsci.in/content/csr-cyber>

Cyber Awareness for School Students

<https://www.dsci.in/cyber-for-youth/>

<https://www.dsci.in/content/cyber-sainik-youth/>

Skilling Women in Cyber

<https://www.dsci.in/cyber-shikshaa/>

<https://www.dsci.in/cyber-vaahini/>

Infrastructure Support for Cyber Skill Centres

<https://www.dsci.in/content/dsci-cyber-skill-centre>

Capacity Building for Cybercrime Investigation & Forensics

<https://www.dsci.in/content/ccitr>

Model Cyber Centres of Excellence

<https://www.n-coe.in/>

<https://ccoe.dsci.in/>

<https://www.dsci.in/content/c-herd>