

POLICY & ADVOCACY

THE TRUSTED VOICE OF INDUSTRY TO GOVERNMENT

DPDP Rules 2025: Key Highlights, Insights and FAQs by DSCI

MeitY notified the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025 on November 13th, 2025. The rules were framed under the DPDP Act, 2023 and are now operationalising India's first data governance legislation in a phased manner.

Insight Brief on DPDP Rules, 2025

DSCI published Insight Brief on the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025, providing a structured overview of the rules, their key provisions, schedules, and timelines. The brief is aimed at helping stakeholders understand operational, compliance, and governance obligations under the DPDP framework.



Summary of DPDP Rules, 2025

DSCI published a summary of the notified Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025 under the DPDP Act, 2023, that elucidates operationalizing India's first comprehensive data governance framework. It further entails detailed guidance on consent, notice, security measures, data retention, and cross-border data processing as provided by the rules.



A Thematic FAQ Series on DPDP Rules 2025

DSCI compiled a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) series under India's data protection framework, covering the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025. These FAQs are organized thematically to support understanding and practical compliance.

Thematic FAQ Series covers:

- » Data Fiduciary and Significant Data Fiduciary
- » Data Retention and Data Erasure
- » Cross Border Flow of Data
- » Processing of Personal Data of Children and Persons with Disabilities
- » Notice Management



For more details, visit: <https://www.dsci.in/content/data-protection-framework-india>

Proposal to Regulate Synthetically Generated Information (SGI) Submitted to MeitY Under IT Rules, 2021

DSCI submitted its feedback on the draft amendment to the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, released by MeitY. The feedback emphasized on regulating Synthetically Generated Information (SGI) while avoiding unintended consequences for lawful expression, platform compliance, and user experience.

DSCI Concludes the First Edition of National Policy Challenge (NPC) with KSPP

DSCI and Kautilya School of Public Policy concluded the first edition of National Policy Challenge for policy enthusiasts on ‘Generative AI: Crafting Policy for the Future’. The challenge featured a virtual qualifier round with 40+ teams that culminated in an in-person semi-final and finale with 9 teams competing in tech-policy innovation.



The challenge helped address pressing AI governance issues including academic integrity, indigenous art protection, deepfakes, municipal finance risks, provenance, and algorithmic bias. Along with suggestions to develop practical solutions and alignment of proposals with global frameworks (EU AI Act, OECD guidelines) and India’s AI Mission.

Proposed Submission Calls for Lawful Expression and Platform Feasibility in IT Rules, 2021

The insights exchanged during an hour-long reading session on the draft amendments to the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 informed the formal submission to MeitY, which focuses on the regulation of Synthetically Generated Information (SGI) while preserving lawful expression and platform feasibility.

The formal submission proposed a risk-tiered approach to SGI classification and regulation. It flagged the overlaps in definitions to ensure legal and regulatory clarity and recommended proportionate labelling and provenance obligations.

Privacy Leadership Forum 2.0 Begins Deliberations on Future of Privacy in India

The Privacy Leaders Forum (PLF) 2.0 officially began with the onboarding of 20 leaders over the launch session. It deliberated on the key theme of future of privacy in India where participants highlighted the state of privacy along with key challenges.

In addition, onboarded leaders in a follow-up session discussed the notified DPDP rules, 2025, focusing on their implications for data protection and organizational compliance.

Roundtable on Adoption and Implications of the DPDPA in the Indian Music Industry Brings out Novel Perspectives

A closed-door, sector-specific roundtable was conducted to examine the adoption, applicability, and practical implications of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and the Data Protection Rules, 2025 for India’s music industry. The discussion was held under Chatham House Rules to enable candid, experience-driven exchanges among industry stakeholders.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP BRINGING OUT NEW NARRATIVES

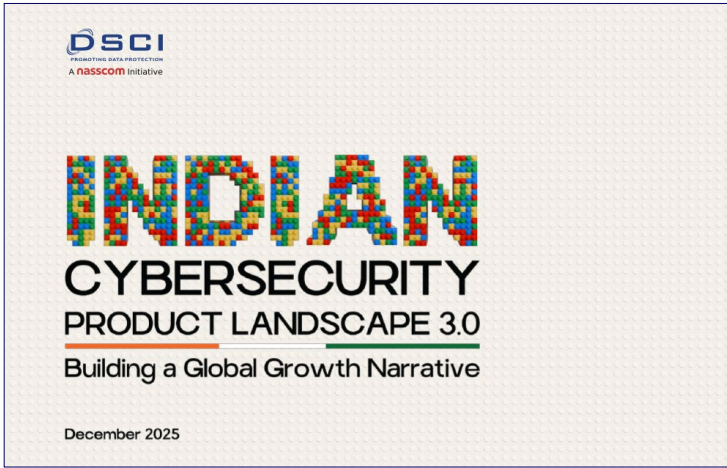
Indian Cybersecurity Product Landscape Report 3.0

Key Highlights

India is now home to more than **400** cybersecurity product companies, generating a combined revenue of **USD 4.46 billion** in 2025.

India’s cybersecurity product industry grew at a **CAGR of 34%** between 2020 and 2025, fuelled by rapid digital adoption, rising cyber threats, and increased public and private sector investment in cybersecurity solutions. The Indian cybersecurity product industry in India has witnessed a rapid and sustained growth trajectory, expanding from USD 1.05 billion in 2020 to USD 4.46 billion by 2025.

- **Market Landscape & Global Presence**
55% of Indian cybersecurity product companies now operate in global markets; however, only 17% maintain physical overseas offices, with the majority expanding through channel partners. North America, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia have emerged as the most significant international markets for Indian cybersecurity products.
- **Revenue Growth & Industry Demand**
Domestic market drives more than 45% of revenue, with BFSI, IT-ITeS, and Government sectors accounting for over one-third of the demand.
- **Talent & Capability Development**
Talent pool stands at approximately 60,000 cybersecurity professionals with ~25% YoY growth. The industry is experiencing talent shortage, which can be addressed through



targeted upskilling programs, collaborations between academia and industry, and investment in AI-driven training platforms.

- **Investment Landscape & Innovation**
39% of Indian cybersecurity companies have secured external funding, demonstrating strong investor confidence. Most funded companies received capital within 2 years of incorporation, indicating strong early-stage investment appetite. **115 patents** filed in 2024-2025 with ~40 grants, showcasing active innovation and IP development.

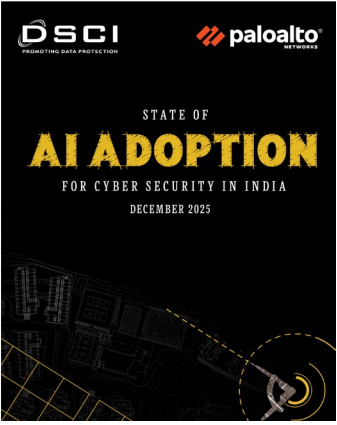
Read report: www.dsci.in/resource/content/indian-cybersecurity-product-landscape-report-3.0

State of AI Adoption for Cyber Security in India

Key Highlights

- Insights drawn from **160+** organizations and cybersecurity leaders across industries
- **79%** plan to integrate AI/ML into existing security and operational tools; **40%** are currently in pilot/PoC stages
- **31%** of attacks involve AI-driven supply-chain compromises and coordinated multi-vector operations; **29%** arise from autonomous malware and AI-powered zero-day exploits
- **19%** capability priorities focus on AI risk awareness (hallucinations, bias, data leakage); **16%** emphasize secure data-handling judgment (classification, redaction, sharing)
- AI Security Architects & Model Validators identified as key roles by **18%** of organizations; **15%** highlight AI Ethics & Policy Officers as essential roles

Read report: www.dsci.in/resource/content/state-of-AI-adoption-cyber-security-india



Safeguarding India's Digital Health – A Framework for Cybersecure Healthcare Infrastructure

The report examines challenges of increasing cyber threats due to rapid digital transformation through people, providers, and the broader health system, to provide a clear picture of India's current cybersecurity posture in healthcare industry. Read report: www.dsci.in/resource/content/safeguarding-indias-digital-health-framework-cybersecure-healthcare-infrastructure



OT Cyber Security Lab Concept Brief

The concept brief outlines efforts to boost India's industrial cyber resilience with establishment of the OT Cyber Security Lab designed for simulation of industrial threat scenarios, validation of security controls, and improvement of resilience across various sectors.

Read concept brief: www.dsci.in/resource/content/ot-cyber-security-lab-concept-brief



Next-Gen Electric Vehicles: Technology Breakthroughs Driving Electric Revolution

The report provides a comprehensive overview of the evolving electric mobility ecosystem, outlining key technological breakthroughs shaping the future of sustainable transportation.

Read report: www.dsci.in/resource/content/next-gen-electric-vehicles-technology-breakthroughs-driving-electric-revolution



Operational Technology – Security Operation Centre

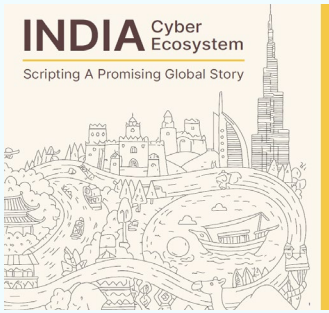
This paper shows the shift towards structured OT SOC capability and how OT SOC, across separate, hybrid, and converged models, are becoming essential for continuous monitoring, incident response, and regulatory compliance.

Read report: www.dsci.in/resource/content/operational-technology-security-operation-centre



India Cyber Ecosystem: Scripting a Promising Global Story

The outlook on 'India Cyber Ecosystem: Scripting a Promising Global Story' highlights India's expanding global cyber footprint, key international engagements and collaborations led by DSCI. The outlook reflects how India's cybersecurity ecosystem is driving a global narrative of innovation, trust, and digital resilience. It was formally launched by Dr. Rabindra Narayan Behera, MP (Lok Sabha), Jajpur, Odisha.



GLOBAL TRADE & DEVELOPMENT

DSCI'S GLOBAL CYBER DIALOGUE

Indian Delegation Showcases Expertise at Arab International Cybersecurity Conference

DSCI took the third Indian delegation with eight Indian cybersecurity companies at the Arab International Cybersecurity Conference (AICS) 2025, hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain and showcased capabilities as part of the Indian pavilion.

The first edition of the Indo-Bahrain cybersecurity meet-up was also hosted on the sidelines of the conference, enabling Indian delegates to connect with Bahrain's cybersecurity leaders, innovators, and practitioners.



Canadian Delegation Deliberates on Potential Cybersecurity Avenues of Collaboration

The Canadian delegation with representatives from multiple Canadian provinces and leading industry stakeholders formally led by the Commercial Minister from the High Commission of Canada in India, with support from the High Commissioner was hosted at DSCI premises. The discussions explored joint innovation and technology exchange, identifying opportunities for capacity building, examining potential partnership and investment avenues between the Canadian and Indian cybersecurity ecosystems.



Norway-India Dialogue Highlights Pathways for Cybersecurity Cooperation

Senior officials from the Norwegian embassy visited DSCI premises on advancing Norway-India cooperation in cybersecurity and digital public infrastructure. The meeting outlined opportunities for joint work in secure digitalization, digital public goods, policy exchange, and collaborative research, reinforcing the growing alignment between both countries in shaping a resilient and inclusive global digital ecosystem.

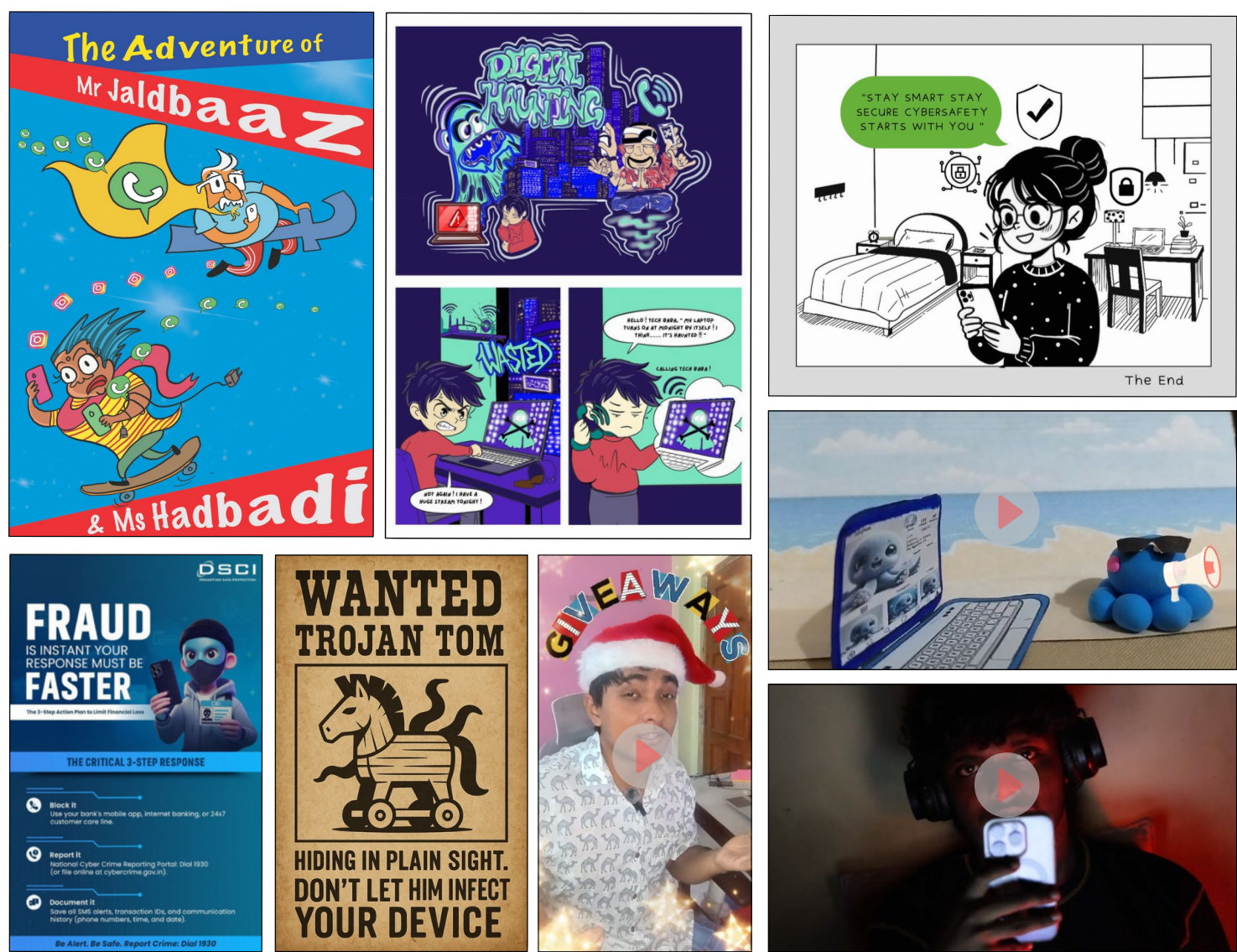


Strategic Talks in EU Pave Way for Productive Stakeholder Engagement

A series of important engagements with strategic stakeholders in the Hague & Brussels was accomplished during the visit to the European Union (EU). In Hague, meetings with the Hague Security Delta & Z-CERT centred on understanding their national approach to sectoral CERT operations, incident response mechanisms, and healthcare cybersecurity frameworks. In Brussels, DSCI’s meeting with the EDPB (European Data Protection Board) & the European Commission provided valuable insights into cross-border data governance and potential areas of future knowledge exchange.

CSR FOR CYBER TAKING CYBER LITERACY TO THE MASSES

The Cyber Awareness Design Challenge Brings Creative Voices Together to Strengthen Cyber Safety



The Cyber Awareness Design Challenge marked its first edition, conceptualised as part of the Cybersecurity Awareness Month campaign. The challenge offered participants across the country an opportunity to support citizen-centric cyber safety awareness through entries across creative categories. Over 306 submissions were received across the categories of, ‘Most Insightful Poster,’ ‘Most Engaging Reel,’ ‘Most Creative Comic Strip,’ and ‘Most Appealing Short Video,’ offering a total prize pool worth up to INR 2,00,000. The winner, first and second runners up in each category were awarded INR 25000, INR 15000, and INR 10000 respectively at the DSCI-Nasscom 20th Annual Information Security Summit (AISS).

Participation emerged from premier institutes like NIFTs, NIDs, IITs and many more and had diverse participants including students, design and technology professionals.

Cyber for YOUth Brought Cyber Education to School Students of the Capital

The fourth phase of the Cyber for YOUth program reached the national capital, Delhi with industry partner CTBC bank to promote cyber education among school students. The program reached the schools of CM Shri School, Lancer Road; SKV Timarpur; and GBSSS Rohini, covering a total of 2,075 beneficiaries including students and teachers. In addition, it also earned appreciation from officials visiting the sessions on behalf of the Delhi Education Department.



Cyber Vaahini Success Stories

“I was under-confident up till college but that changed when the mentors at Cyber Vaahini honed me with critical skills needed for being an industry professional.” - Esha



“I enrolled myself and found the Cyber Vaahini program to be an eye-opener, as it helped me understand cybersecurity and its implications for the real world.” - Rubby Singh

Footprints of Cyber Sainik Expanded to India's Fourth Largest State, Uttar Pradesh

In continuation to the ongoing efforts of bringing cyber education to school students of remote towns and tier-II, III cities; Cyber Sainik program in association with Kyndryl arrived at Uttar Pradesh covering beneficiaries from the cities of Lucknow, Varanasi and Prayagraj.

A total of 5249 beneficiaries including students and teachers from 10 schools were reached across the three cities over a span of one month. With this lap, Cyber Sainik clocked 20,200+ beneficiaries across the states of Karnataka, Gujarat, and Uttar Pradesh.



Students Gain Industry Exposure at DSCI Advanced Cyber Skill Centre in Mumbai

The first bootcamp was successfully concluded at the centre with students from Saraswati Education Society's Saraswati College of Engineering, Mumbai. They were trained in key areas including cybersecurity management, vulnerability assessment, penetration testing, threat hunting & intelligence and more. The 7-day bootcamp culminated in a 2-hour Capture the Flag (CTF) and scenario-based assessment, featuring simulation exercises of real-time cyber incidents.

In addition, two workshops for final-year and pre-final-year undergraduate students were conducted through essential cybersecurity fundamentals, ethics in cybersecurity, and emerging threats.



DSCI Advanced Cyber Skill Centre Hosts New Zealand MP

The DSCI Advanced Cyber Skill Centre hosted H.E. Mr. Todd McClay, Minister for Trade & Investment and Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of New Zealand, along with his delegation, as well as the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation Commissioner and other senior officials. The delegation explored the facility, its infrastructure, and centre's capabilities.



CAPACITY BUILDING

DSCI CERTIFICATIONS POWERING CYBER SKILL GROWTH

226 professionals trained this quarter under DSCI's certification programs.



23 Professionals trained



40 Professionals trained



85 Professionals trained



48 Professionals trained



30 Professionals trained

AWARENESS AND OUTREACH

FROM DESK TO COMMUNITY



Security Chips: The Cybersecurity Podcast

Episode #17 How Boots Meet Bots to Redefine the Battlefield?

Guest: Lieutenant General PJS Pannu (Retd.), PVSM, AVSM, VSM, Former Deputy Chief of the Indian Integrated Defence Staff (Operations)

Host: Bhupesh Janoti, Senior Program Manager – Business Transformation & Security, DSCI

LISTEN TO DSCI PODCAST

Cyber Security Awareness Month 2025

DSCI celebrated the annual global Cyber Security Awareness Month this year under the theme, "Cyber Suraksha Drive - A Truckload of Information to Stay Safe Online," drawing inspiration from Indian Truck Art. The campaign continued with its objective to promote cyber safety among citizens, businesses and various stakeholders with support from industry partners **CRED, HDFC Bank, IIFL Finance, Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru, Protectt.ai, Providence, Punjab National Bank, QRC Assurance and Solutions, SQ1 Security, Target, and ZS Associates.**



Key themes delivered:

Social Media Safety, Privacy Protection, Digital Payment Safety, App & Account Security, Email Security and Cybercrime Redressal

Visit Campaign:
www.dsci.in/cyber-security-awareness-month-2025

Campaign Outreach

Total Outreach: 58+ million

- Screensaver/Wallpaper Downloads: **1,22,442**
- Social Media Outreach: **5,65,02,530**
- Webpage (visits & clicks): **6,07,957**
- Awareness Quiz Participation: **27,348**
- Emailers (clicks & open): **52,988**
- Design Challenge (submissions): **305**
- Awareness sessions outreach: **8,000**
- Media ET (outreach): **8,00,000**



AISS 2025 was formally inaugurated by a distinguished panel of leaders from government, industry, defence, and the cybersecurity ecosystem. The inaugural session featured addresses by:

- **Shri S. Krishnan, Secretary**, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY);
- **Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan**, Vice Chief of the Naval Staff
- **Mr. Vinayak Godse**, CEO, DSCI
- **Mr. Pramod Bhasin**, Chairman, ICRIER and Founder, Genpact



Key Highlights

4,000+ Delegates

350+ Speakers



120 Sponsors & Partners

80 Security solutions showcase(exhibitors)

18 Sub-events

06 Report Launches

02 Hackathons

02 Locations

Sub-Summits in Focus:

- OT Security Sub Summit
- Women in Security
- Digital Forensics Sub-Summit
- Quantum Edge Sub-Summit
- PULSE
- OT Security Hackathon



274 Nominations

29 Winners

Most hotly contested category: Security Leader of the Year (64 nominations)

04 Special jury recognitions

03 Segments: Corporate, Product & Law Enforcement

Total categories: 26 (including Security Leader of the Year sub-categories)

NEW INITIATIVES

TO PROMOTE CYBERSECURITY INDUSTRY READINESS

Taking Strides to Empower Educators with DSCI FRONTIER

The DSCI FRONTIER - Faculty Readiness for Out-Front NextGen Technology, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship Relevance program was recently launched for educators across the country to nurture their understanding of the modern security landscape.



Complete details at: www.dsci.in/content/dsci-frontier

MeitY, DSCI and C-DAC Hyderabad Join Hands for Cyber Security Innovation Challenge 1.0

The Cyber Security Innovation Challenge 1.0 (CSIC 1.0), an initiative under the Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Project of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, has been launched with the aim to foster indigenous, research-driven cybersecurity solutions from India's academic ecosystem. The idea stage registration is currently on-going.

Complete details at: <https://www.dsci.in/content/cyber-security-innovation-challenge-1.0>



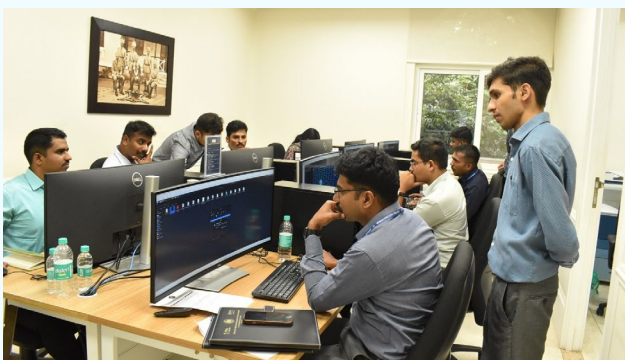
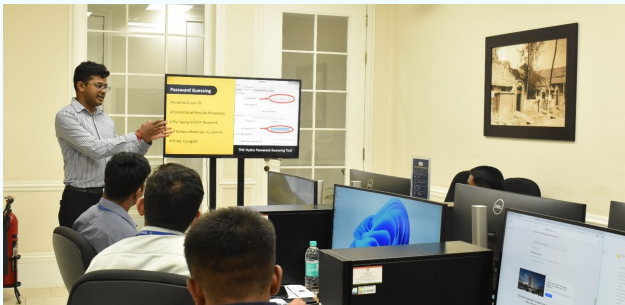
CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

EMPOWERING LAW ENFORCEMENT WITH CYBERCRIME SKILLS AND ENABLING INDUSTRY START-UPS WITH MARKET POTENTIAL

Centre for Cybercrime Investigation Training and Research (CCITR)

Over 4973 police personnel trained this quarter

- Long Courses: 663
- Short Courses: 156
- Virtual Training: 1074
- Outreach: 3080



Building Cybercrime Investigation Capabilities through Hands-On Training Programs

The last quarter saw CCITR continue its mission to strengthen India's cyber investigation capacity through a series of specialized and hands-on training programs. Between October and December 2025, multiple batches of flagship long and short courses were delivered to police personnel and investigation agencies across the country.

- 'Basic Course: Cybercrime Investigation Techniques Level 1' trained 113 Police personnel from district police stations and 26 Police personnel from Commissionerate. Participants were given insights ranging from overview of cybercrimes, open-source intelligence techniques to best practices for handling electronic evidence.

- 'Cybercrime Investigation Techniques' trained 330 probationary Police Sub-Inspectors at the Karnataka Police Academy (KPA), Mysuru and 86 probationary Police Sub-Inspectors from Police Training College (PTC), Kalaburagi. The training covered cybercrime trends, digital forensics sub-disciplines, legal provisions, OSINT techniques, and emerging technologies like AI in policing and ethical hacking.



- 'Intermediate Course: Password Cracking' trained select 8 police personnel from the Bengaluru City Police stations on password cracking methods, commonly used tools, and their role in forensic investigations.

- ‘Intermediate Course: Cybercrime Investigation Techniques Level 2’ trained 28 Police personnel from District Police Stations and 56 Police personnel from Bengaluru City Police. Participants were given insights ranging from overview of cybercrimes, open-source intelligence techniques to best practices for handling electronic evidence.



- ‘Advanced Course: Cryptocurrency Investigation (CI)’ trained 24 Police personnel from CID, Karnataka on fundamentals of blockchain, role of cryptocurrency in darkweb & key artifacts in digital forensics and functioning of crypto exchanges. Simulated raids, case-scenarios and hands-on exercises were conducted along with a Capture the Flag (CTF) challenge.
- ‘Advanced Course (AC) - 307: Investigation in Virtual Environment’ trained select 8 police personnel from Karnataka State Police on installing VMware workstation, creating Windows

virtual machines using ISO files, and configuring disk storage, RAM, and network settings.

- ‘Cyber Law and Cybercrimes Level 2’ trained for 85 judicial officers of the rank of District & Sessions Judges and Senior Civil Judges. These participants were introduced to the latest cybercrime developments, including AI-driven threats, cloud-based offences, virtualized environments, and distributed infrastructure crimes, along with the prosecutorial challenges associated with these emerging domains.

- ‘Advanced Course-302: Smartwatch Forensics (SWF)’ trained 30 police personnel from commissionerates. Training sessions provided overview of smartwatch forensics, current trends, crimes involving wearable technology, expected digital evidence and best practices for search and seizure of smartwatches at crime scenes.



CCITR and PESU-ISFCR Sign MoU for Capacity Building

Expert-led sessions helped Karnataka State Police stay updated on digital investigation techniques and emerging cyber tools. Some of the key sessions included: OSINT for police investigations, investigating android APK files, introduction to web 3.0, steganography, and leveraging AI in police investigation.

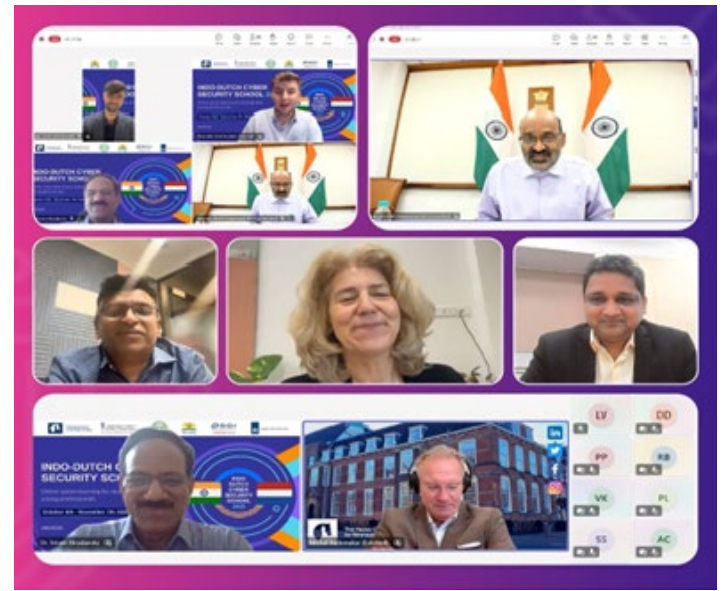
Cyber Forensics and Awareness across Sectors

CCITR experts delivered awareness sessions on cyber forensics across universities and government bodies, reaching over 2747 officers. These sessions at prestigious institutions and agencies expanded the centre’s outreach beyond law enforcement, strengthening awareness and capacity in digital investigation practices.

Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (CCoE)

Cyber Collaboration Reinforced with the 8th Indo-Dutch Cyber Security School 2025

The 8th Indo-Dutch Cyber Security School 2025 was concluded with overwhelming participation and had 20,000+ registrations from students and professionals across the globe where they participated over 35+ sessions. This initiative helped nurture a future-ready cybersecurity talent pool and strengthened international academic-industry linkages in this critical domain.



CCoE chaired roundtable with UK delegation on Homeland Security Solutions

The roundtable with UK delegation strengthened global collaboration by enabling UK and CCoE stakeholders to share insights on emerging homeland security challenges and technology-driven solutions.

Insights were exchanged on emerging security challenges, technology-led approaches, and the importance of international collaboration in building robust security frameworks.



Outreach across Domains for Cybersecurity

- Conducted a masterclass ‘Operationalizing Privacy: From Policy to Practice’ with Seqrite on operationalising privacy and DPDPA implementation.
- Participated at NTC 2025, highlighting key initiatives across innovation, research, enterprise collaboration, and capacity building.



- Addressed the engineering community at the IEI Qatar Chapter’s AI & Cyber Security webinar to strengthen India-Qatar collaboration.
- Delivered a session on Ethics, Accountability, and Responsible AI for students and faculty at ICFAI Law School.
- Facilitated networking at the BDHC Hyderabad reception, engaging 30 professionals and UK homeland security companies.
- Inaugurated the 4th edition of Cyber Congress 2025 at GCET, engaging 150 students and faculty.

New Startups Incubated to promote Cyber Excellence



Cyethack Solutions Private Limited



ePathra Solutions Private Limited
physical & digital security