

Ministry of Electronics & IT and DSCI felicitated Winners of ‘Cyber Security Grand Challenge 2.0’ with total prize pool of ₹ 6.85 Cr

New Delhi, February 26, 2026: Shri S. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), today felicitated the winners of the ‘Cyber Security Grand Challenge 2.0’ (CSGC 2.0), a flagship initiative of MeitY implemented in association with the Data Security Council of India (DSCI). The initiative aims to strengthen the nation’s cybersecurity capabilities and build expertise in critical technology domains to support a secure and resilient digital ecosystem.

The Cyber Security Grand Challenge 2.0 carried a combined prize pool of ₹6.85 crore, making it one of the most significant government-backed cybersecurity innovation challenges in the country. The winners of the Grand Challenge 2.0 were awarded with trophies and cash prize of ₹1 crore to the winner, while the 1st and 2nd Runners-up received ₹50 lakh and ₹25 lakh respectively.

The winners along with the problem statements addressed by them are:

	Start-up	Problem Statement Addressed
Winner	Cambrian Skillsda Technologies and Consultancy Services LLP (CSTCS)	Securing Next-Gen Biometrics Systems
1 st Runner-up	Crypsis	Clone & Fake Apps mitigation
2 nd Runner-up	Ziriz.ai	API Security

Launched in January 2025, the Cyber Security Grand Challenge hosted on MyGov Platform stands as a testament to the commitment to fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship within our nation by incentivizing innovation in six critical domains: API Security, Data Security, Wearable Device Security and Privacy, Clone and Fake App Mitigation, AI for Threat Detection and Incident Response, and Securing Next-Generation Biometric Systems. A unique feature of the initiative remains that the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of the developed solutions are owned by the respective start-ups.

The Challenge was conducted in four structured stages with progressive evaluation and financial support at each level. At the Idea Stage, six start-ups were shortlisted under each problem statement, making a total of 36 start-ups, and each was awarded ₹5 lakh to further develop and refine their solutions. During the Minimum Viable Product stage, these start-ups received structured technical and business mentorship to build functional prototypes, following which 18 start-ups, three under each problem statement, advanced to the Final Product Stage and were awarded ₹10 lakh each. At this stage, the solutions were tested and validated, leading

to the selection of five start-ups that were awarded ₹25 lakh each. In the final Go-to-Market Stage, start-ups were evaluated on commercial readiness, scalability and market potential, and three start-ups were declared Grand Winners. Throughout the Challenge, participating start-ups received continuous technical and business mentorship to strengthen product maturity, deployability and market readiness.

Shri S. Krishnan, Secretary, MeitY, said, *“The Cyber Security Grand Challenge 2.0 is an important step towards building strong indigenous cybersecurity capacity in the country. Cybersecurity is one area where domestic capability is of utmost importance. Indigenisation in cybersecurity is critical, as the security challenges we face are real and evolving, and we must be prepared with solutions developed within our own ecosystem.*

The Challenge has followed a rigorous evaluation process, and it is encouraging to see extensive participation, including student-led teams, start-ups, and women-led enterprises. The problem statements were carefully curated and highly relevant to today’s data-driven economy, where increased data sharing through mechanisms such as APIs must be accompanied by strong data security and privacy safeguards. This initiative is an opportunity to continue building long-term domestic capacity, and we must sustain this momentum going forward. MeitY remains committed to advancing indigenisation in cybersecurity and strengthening institutional and ecosystem capacity through sustained collaboration.”

Shri Vinayak Godse, CEO, DSCI, said, *“Cyber Security Grand Challenge 2.0 marks a significant progression from its first edition, with the prize pool being doubled and the introduction of a dedicated Go-to-Market stage to support commercialization and market access. This evolution reflects our collective focus on moving beyond prototype development toward building scalable, deployment-ready cybersecurity products. Compared to the previous edition, we have seen stronger industry participation, sharper alignment of problem statements with emerging threat landscapes, and greater solution maturity across stages. The quality of innovations emerging from CSGC 2.0 underscores the growing depth of India’s cybersecurity start-up ecosystem, and DSCI remains committed to working closely with MeitY and industry stakeholders to accelerate indigenous capability building and position India as a trusted global hub for cybersecurity solutions.”*

For all information around the challenge, visit: <https://innovateindia.mygov.in/cyber-security-grand-challenge/>

About Data Security Council of India

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 cybersecurity and privacy. DSCI

works together with the Government and their agencies, law enforcement agencies, industry sectors including IT-BPM, BFSI, CII, Telecom, data protection authorities and think tanks for public advocacy, thought leadership, capacity building and outreach initiatives. For more info, visit: <https://www.dsci.in/>



Winner: CSTCS

Website: www.CSTCS.in



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Winner: Ziriz.ai

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