

## KARNATAKA STATE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN CYBER SECURITY

Centre Head : Karthik Rao Bappanad  
Funding Agency : GoK

- The Karnataka Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security was formed in 2017 as an initiative of Government of Karnataka under Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), Department of Information Technology and Biotechnology.
- As part of Karnataka's Technology Innovation Strategy, the CoE was tasked to promote a cyber-safe and conducive environment for industry collaboration, address skills gap, build awareness and foster innovation in the emerging technology field of Cyber Security. The CoE will also facilitate standardization and best practices for information security across industry domains, research and development and technical training programme in Cyber Security.
- It was announced in October 2018 that the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) is the Anchor Institution and the Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology (KSCST) is the Implementing Agency for the CoE.
- The *Technical Committee* of the CoE consists of the below faculty members at IISc: Prof. Y. Narahari (Convener), Prof. Vinod Ganapathy (Co-Convener), Prof. P. Vijay Kumar, Prof. Naveen Kashyap, Prof. Joy Kuri, Prof. Sanjit Chatterjee.
- The *Standing Committee* of the CoE at KSCST consists of Prof. Ashok Raichur (Chair), H. Hemanth Kumar, P. Manivannan (Deputy Financial Controller, IISc), Govindaraja, H. Shiva Prasad, Prof Y. Narahari (Invitee), Prof. Vinod Ganapathy (Invitee), CEO, CoE-CS (Invitee).
- After six months of operation during Jan-June 2019, a detailed review of the Centre was conducted by the technical committee.
- An advertisement was released in September 2019 for recruiting: (1) Centre Head (2) Group Lead – Industry & Start-ups (3) Group Lead – Skill Development (4) Operations Manager.
- Dr. Rajeev Gopalakrishna as Group Lead – Industry & Start-ups and Mr. Mir Zahir Abbas as Operations Manager are on board effective 11-November-2019. Mr. Karthik Rao Bappanad has joined the CoE as Centre Head on 16-January-2020.
- The role for Group Lead – Skill Development is currently placed on hold. The overall resources requirement for the CoE will be finalised shortly and further recruitments will be conducted based on a fresh plan.
- The current activities of the CoE are under two tracks primarily – 1) Outreach and 2) Industry & Start-ups.
- The major activities undertaken by CoE include under Outreach track are as follows.
  - Organised a Cyber Security Summer School at the MS Ramaiah Institute of Technology and IFIM Business School in collaboration with The Hague Security Delta during June 2-7, 2019. It was a highly successful and much appreciated event.
  - Programme on “Career in Cyber Security” was conducted at 15 different engineering colleges across five districts of Karnataka. 2043 students attended this programme.
  - Two webinars were conducted in April 2019 and June 2019 covering the topics “Dissecting a ransomware” and “Exploring MITRE ATT&CK framework”.
  - A talk and panel discussion on Cyber Security was organised at World Trade Centre, Bengaluru in association with Cyber Crime Cell of state police on 22-May-2019.
  - A five-day Faculty Development Programme on Role of Blockchain and AI in Applications of Cyber Security was conducted at MS Ramaiah Institute of Technology on 22-26, July 2019. Around 30 faculty members from various engineering colleges across Karnataka attended this programme.

- Two-days hands-on workshops focusing on cyber security technical skill building were conducted across the state. Five workshops across four districts were conducted in September and October 2019 that were attended by 232 engineering students.
- One day workshop on “Cyber Privacy and Security Engineering” was conducted at BMS Institute of Technology and Management on 12-Oct-2019. 185 faculty and post-graduate students attended this event.
- Conducted a hackathon captioned “Cyber security in Digital India with AI/ML & Blockchain” at MS Ramaiah Institute of Technology in collaboration with Virtusa India Pvt. Ltd on 15,16-November-2019. 72 engineering students from across the states participated in this hackathon.
- Cyber security awareness sessions targeted at school and college students were conducted across 10 districts covering a total of 7977 students and 235 teachers as of end-February 2020.
- The key progress in the Industry & Start-ups track are as follows.
  - a. The CoE has conceived the idea for an accelerator program for start-ups providing cyber security solutions. The accelerator is branded as H.A.C.K. – which is a recursive acronym and expands as **H**ACK is an **A**ccelerator for **C**yber security in **K**arnataka. H.A.C.K. will be one of India’s first cybersecurity-specific government-backed accelerators.
  - b. The detailed H.A.C.K. proposal with timeline and milestones is available at [https://docs.google.com/document/d/100v1aaW5AKYR8fBjOkBg\\_sgCjoQBC5C178NN\\_Td\\_i6dk/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/100v1aaW5AKYR8fBjOkBg_sgCjoQBC5C178NN_Td_i6dk/edit?usp=sharing)
- The CoE has also initiated outreach to potential industry, academia and government partners who can collaborate with us. This includes Centre for eGovernance (Government of Karnataka), Data Security Council of India, EY (for international outreach), HasGeek and Null (for eventing), and CISO Platform (CISO community).