



Mahratta Chamber of Commerce,
Industries and Agriculture

HANDBOOK OF MCCIA'S CYBERSECURITY INITIATIVE

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Foreword



In an era defined by digital transformation and unprecedented connectivity, the importance of cybersecurity cannot be overstated. As the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA), we recognise the critical need for robust cybersecurity measures to safeguard our collective future.

We are deeply gratified to lead an initiative of such paramount importance, one that resonates not only within the confines of our region but across the global landscape. The foresight to prioritise cybersecurity is not merely a proactive measure but a fundamental pillar upon which the edifice of progress and innovation stands.

Under the leadership of Mr. Dinanath Kholkar, this initiative has embarked on a journey that promises to fortify our digital defenses and foster a culture of resilience and preparedness. This endeavor is complemented by the invaluable support of the US Consulate and the Israeli Consulate, reflecting the collaborative spirit that underpins our collective efforts and the global significance of this initiative.

As we navigate the complexities of an ever-evolving threat landscape, it is imperative that we stand united in our commitment to cybersecurity. This handbook, a culmination of our collective endeavors, serves as a testament to our resolve to empower organisations and individuals with the knowledge and tools necessary to mitigate cyber risks effectively.

We are confident that this initiative will not only address the immediate challenges posed by cyber threats but also lay the groundwork for a more secure and resilient digital future. It is our collective responsibility to embrace this opportunity, to champion cybersecurity as a cornerstone of progress, and to ensure that our digital ecosystem remains safeguarded for generations to come.

We extend our gratitude to all those who have contributed to this initiative, from the US and Israel Consulates, partner companies, advisory committee members to Dinanath Kholkar, Nikhil Jain and Anant Abhyankar, whose dedication and expertise have shaped this handbook into a beacon of guidance and inspiration.

With regards,



Mr. Deepak Karandikar
President, MCCIA



Mr. Prashant Girbane
Director General, MCCIA

Objectives



The **Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture** has launched a Cybersecurity initiative with the support of the **US Consulate in Mumbai**. This initiative is under the helm of the Director General, MCCIA, driven by the chamber's **IT/ITES Committee**. In addition, strategic partnerships have been made with academia, industry bodies, training institutes, and tech companies.

There are three primary objectives of the cybersecurity initiative:

1. To create a **landing pad or anchor** for companies in the cybersecurity domain who want to do business in the Pune region.

With a 90-year history and membership of 3000+ companies and 50+ academic institutions, MCCIA will serve as this initiative's anchor/launch pad.

2. Educational Excellence and Skill Development in cybersecurity

The entire spectrum from essential awareness on cyber risks, to implementation of infosec policies, to high-end cybersecurity expertise. The diverse stakeholders include business leaders who must understand cyber risks, working professionals who want to up-skill/re-skill and implement cybersecurity solutions, students, and faculty members.

MCCIA, with its experience in organising skill development and faculty development programmes, would enable a series of events with the help of knowledge partners.

3. Enable business opportunities for stakeholders.

The ecosystem created by the initiative will enable and grow business connections.

Tech companies aspiring to provide cybersecurity solutions to companies in the region. Regional companies delivering cybersecurity services.

Given the inclusive nature of this initiative, MCCIA would be open to having other like-minded countries with relevant domain expertise join us in the future.

MCCIA IT/ITES committee is well connected with some of Pune's cybersecurity experts, IT services/product companies, researchers, and academicians. Also, MCCIA has reached out to government establishments and other industry bodies like Nasscom/DSCI, CII, IEEE, ACM, and specialised cybersecurity cells.

Initiative launched at PIBS 2024





PUNE
INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESS
SUMMIT
2024
5th Edition



Launch of

MCCIA's Cyber Security Initiative

In Collaboration with The US Consulate General in Mumbai

Objective

- Be a Landing Pad for the US Companies wanting to do business in Pune
- Skill Development in Cyber Security
- Enable Business Connects between the US companies and the Indian companies

Stakeholder Ecosystem

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSMEs • IT Sector • Incubation Labs & Startups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Startups • Sister City Initiatives • Academia & Training Institutes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOCs in IT Services Companies & GCCs • Asst. Firms • Knowledge Partners |
|--|---|---|

MCCIA's cybersecurity Initiative was launched at the Pune International Business Summit 2024 at the hands of President MCCIA Mr. Deepak Karandikar, Director-General MCCIA Mr. Prashant Girbane, Consul General at U.S. Consulate Mumbai Mr. Mike Hankey, Consul General of Israel to Mid-West India in Mumbai Mr. Kobbi Shoshani and Chair of IT/ITES committee MCCIA Mr. Dinanath Kholkar.



Mike Hankey
Consul General
U.S. Consulate General Mumbai

The US-India Cyber Security Initiative will engage with academia, industry leaders, and civil society to fortify cyber defenses, safeguard infrastructures, and protect sensitive data. We envision a secure and prosperous IT partnership that mirrors our collective dedication to an open and prospering global community.

Mike Hankey, Consul General at the U.S. Consulate in Mumbai, emphasised the initiative's intent to establish Pune as a guiding light in cybersecurity mentorship and to enhance digital connections between individuals.

Acknowledging the unprecedented pace of digital technological progress, he highlighted the urgency of this collaborative effort.

The importance of a secure and resilient cyberspace to support the growth of the public and private sectors was underscored, focusing on the global benefits of an open and unrestricted online information flow. The India-US cybersecurity collaboration addresses the urgency of mitigating digital threats and ensuring the digital revolution is synonymous with worldwide prosperity and stability.

The discussion highlighted the critical role of secure and resilient cyberspace in fostering growth across public and private sectors and the global advantages of unrestricted information flow online. The collaboration between India and the US in cybersecurity addresses the pressing need to combat digital threats, ensuring that the digital transformation aligns with global prosperity and stability.

The panel discussion was organised on the topic of enhancing cyber security in the digital age.



Initiative

launched at PIBS 2024





Dr. Swati Mujumdar

Pro Chancellor,
Symbiosis Skills and
Professional University, Pune

Dr. Swati Mujumdar stressed the overarching need for cyber security to safeguard digital growth and the demand for trained cybersecurity professionals.



Rohan Vaidya

Head (India and SAARC),
CyberArk Software, Inc

Rohan Vaidya emphasized the significance of digital identity and the creation of privileged identities for its protection, alongside emphasizing the collaborative efforts in strengthening cybersecurity



Rohit Srivastwa

Founder, KAS Cyber Ventures

Rohit Srivastwa stressed the importance of prioritizing cybersecurity to ensure a secure digital space and mentioned involvement in multiple initiatives.



Rajendra Pillai

President and CEO,
AIIPL Tech Pvt. Ltd.

Rajendra Pillai drew parallels between cyber issues and the COVID-19 pandemic, underscoring the importance of structured training and certification in cybersecurity.



Sumedh Thakar

President and CEO,
Qualys

Sumedh Thakar discussed India's advancements in digital technologies and the global adoption of cybersecurity solutions developed by Indian companies located in Pune.

Round table of invited US companies





After the launch event, a round table of invited US companies was organised with US Consul General Mike Hankey and the staff of the US Consulate in Mumbai.

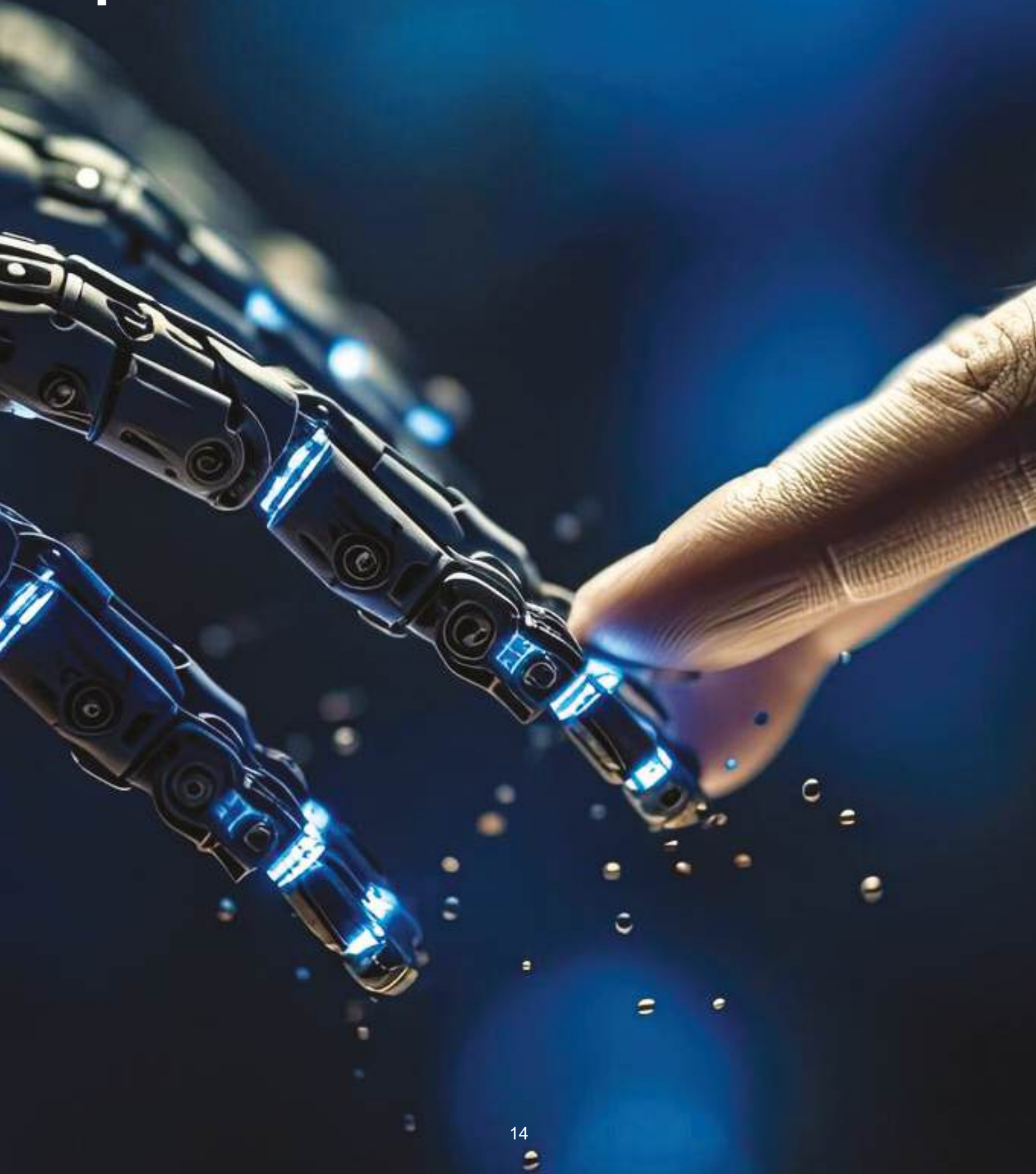
The companies invited were - Accenture, Cummins, Deloitte, Eaton, Elliot Systems, Google, IBM, ISL IDEAS India (SAS India), John Deere, LogicMonitor, Optra Ventures, Securonix, TIAA, Velsera, Veritas, Qualys, Infosys, Broadcom. We had 15 participants representing these companies and they were updated about the initiative and encouraged to participate.

One critical area of discussion was talent development and participation in the efforts along with academia. While a few organisations have invested in academic relationships and are participating in long-term talent availability, those setting up new cybersecurity units are finding it difficult to source skilled experts who can be the core team.

All these companies agreed to support the initiative.

Knowledge

partner for educational excellence





IITB TRUST LAB

DIGITAL : SECURE : RESPONSIBLE

Based on the guidance of Dr. Shridhar Shukla (Founding Donor) and Mukul Joshi (Program Director), it was decided to have IIT-B Trust Lab as the knowledge partner to drive educational excellence in academia stakeholders of the initiative. Further, we invited Mukul to be part of the initiative Advisory Committee.

US Consul General Mike Hankey visited IIT-B to learn about their initiatives on cybersecurity. He was impressed by the Trust Lab that works towards the development of a secure and trustworthy digital environment.



IIT-B Trust Lab meetup with US Consul General Mike Hankey and US Consulate staff in Mumbai

At the forefront of India's digital security landscape, IIT Bombay houses the renowned IITB Trust Lab. This pivotal research and development centre is dedicated to fostering a secure and reliable digital environment for the nation. The lab's mission centres around advancing information security, privacy, and the cultivation of comprehensive digital trust. The IITB Trust Lab is crucial in propelling Pune's transformation into a flourishing cybersecurity hub through cutting-edge research, partnerships with industry leaders, and targeted educational programmes.

The IITB Trust Lab's multifaceted approach encompasses theoretical exploration and practical applications. The lab's commitment to nurturing the next generation of cybersecurity professionals is exemplified by its highly acclaimed Capture The Flag (CTF) competitions. These dynamic events offer students and enthusiasts an immersive platform to hone their

ethical hacking skills, test their knowledge in real-world scenarios, and gain invaluable insights into the ever-evolving world of digital threats.

As a valued partner in this cybersecurity initiative, the IITB Trust Lab brings exceptional expertise, innovation, and a deep-rooted commitment to educational excellence in cybersecurity. The lab's research breakthroughs, educational outreach, and collaborative spirit will undoubtedly empower businesses, government entities, and the broader community to navigate the complexities of the digital age confidently.

Knowledge

partner for educational excellence





Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU)

In a bid to fortify Pune city's position as a Centre of Excellence for cybersecurity, Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) has offered its support to the cybersecurity initiative. Leveraging SPPU's stature as the city's premier educational institution with a wide network of affiliated colleges, this collaboration holds significant promise. Discussions between MCCIA and SPPU have outlined several avenues for collaboration, setting the stage for a fruitful partnership.



Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU)

One pivotal aspect of this collaboration is the involvement of SPPU's Edutech Foundation, a section (8) Education Technology company under the purview of SPPU. Led by CEO Mr. Deepak Hardikar, the foundation is poised to play a crucial role in facilitating the certification and online courses component of the cybersecurity initiative. With a mandate to cater to the technology requirements of the education sector, SPPU Edutech Foundation is well-positioned to provide the necessary infrastructure and expertise to drive this aspect of the initiative forward.

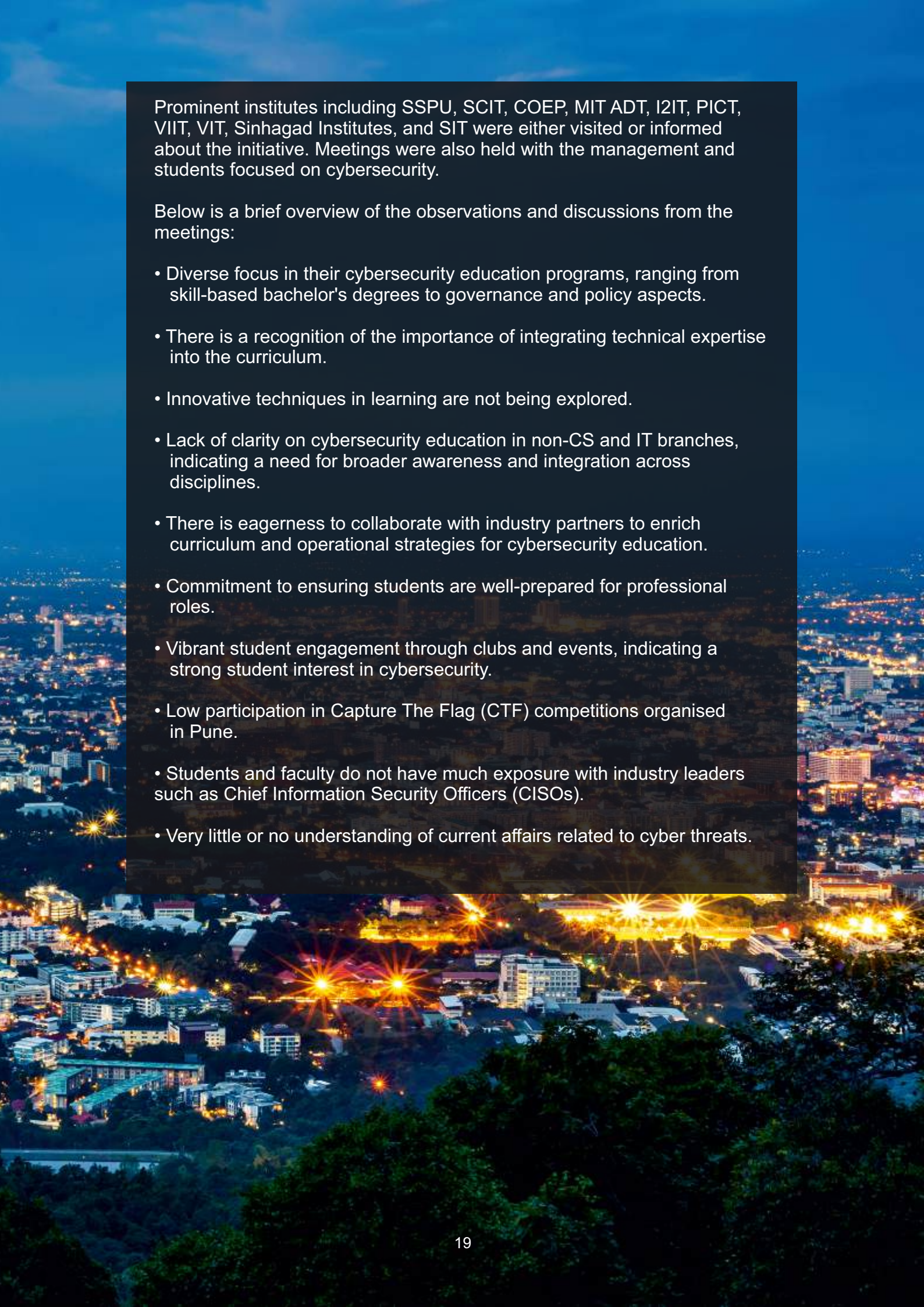
The collaborative potential between SPPU and MCCIA extends beyond curriculum development to encompass industry partnerships and international collaborations. SPPU's expertise in providing cybersecurity professionals, particularly in banking and financial institutions, aligns well with the needs highlighted by MCCIA. Exploring synergies with industrial digital transformation-related security courses further underscores the depth of collaboration envisioned between the two entities.

Recognising the vulnerability of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to cybersecurity risks, both SPPU and MCCIA underscored the need to raise awareness and provide targeted training programs. Through

initiatives like the "Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity" (RAMP) scheme, the collaboration aims to equip MSMEs in the Pune region with cybersecurity programs to mitigate risks associated with digital transformation. Additionally, talent development and diversity initiatives, including specialised programs for top-performing cybersecurity students and partnerships with specialised training organisations, underscore a commitment to nurturing talent and promoting diversity in the cybersecurity field.

Understanding the current cybersecurity programs in the Pune academic circles



An aerial night view of a city, likely Pune, India, with a dark semi-transparent overlay in the center containing text. The city lights are visible in the background, and the foreground shows some greenery.

Prominent institutes including SSPU, SCIT, COEP, MIT ADT, I2IT, PICT, VIIT, VIT, Sinhagad Institutes, and SIT were either visited or informed about the initiative. Meetings were also held with the management and students focused on cybersecurity.

Below is a brief overview of the observations and discussions from the meetings:

- Diverse focus in their cybersecurity education programs, ranging from skill-based bachelor's degrees to governance and policy aspects.
- There is a recognition of the importance of integrating technical expertise into the curriculum.
- Innovative techniques in learning are not being explored.
- Lack of clarity on cybersecurity education in non-CS and IT branches, indicating a need for broader awareness and integration across disciplines.
- There is eagerness to collaborate with industry partners to enrich curriculum and operational strategies for cybersecurity education.
- Commitment to ensuring students are well-prepared for professional roles.
- Vibrant student engagement through clubs and events, indicating a strong student interest in cybersecurity.
- Low participation in Capture The Flag (CTF) competitions organised in Pune.
- Students and faculty do not have much exposure with industry leaders such as Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs).
- Very little or no understanding of current affairs related to cyber threats.

Incubators



COEP's Bhau Institute

The Bhau Institute is the initiative's incubation partner, and its management team is eager to contribute to and support the initiative.

A pivotal insight from the meeting with the Bhau Institute team is their dedication to assisting MSMEs and startups in adopting cyber-secure policies and recognising their vulnerability.

In addition, Bhau Institute is committed to nurturing and advocating for local cybersecurity product companies within the startup ecosystem.



Knowledge partner for industry skill development



Data Security Council of India

Data Security Council of India is a premier industry body on data protection in India, set up by NASSCOM. It is committed to making cyberspace safe, secure, and trusted by establishing best practices, standards, and cybersecurity and privacy initiatives.

Through continual conversations and meetings, a mutual agreement for collaboration was reached with DSCI. This collaboration will benefit MSMEs by addressing their cybersecurity requirements.



US Collaboration Partners

San Jose

The San Jose – Pune sister city initiative has been in existence for over 30 years. Given the concentration of cybersecurity product companies in the Bay Area, MCCIA is keen to leverage the connections with industry leaders, academia, and the startups. We will look forward to organising webinars with cybersecurity experts and researchers to inspire the students and professionals in Pune. Joe Hedges from the San Jose mayor's office, Shrikant Deshpande, and Niranjana Dhomse have been supporting our efforts. Amit Paranjpe, Executive committee member of MCCIA visited San Jose in April and discussed with them areas of collaboration between the two cities.

Matt Mahan, Mayor of San Jose had written a letter supporting the initiative and offered continued participation.



Amit Paranjpe's visit to San Jose

Austin

The Austin Pune Sister City International (APSCI), though a recent sister city agreement, has been quite active with citizen participation from both cities. There have been initiatives on school education, higher education, river rejuvenation, art and culture, healthcare, exchange programs, etc. Especially during the COVID pandemic, citizens of Austin participated in a fundraising effort to support the Pune COVID hospital at Baner.

In the context of the Cybersecurity initiative, MCCIA is in discussions with the University of Texas at Austin to support the education excellence track and potentially have joint hackathons as we had done earlier. The Austin Chamber of Commerce has expressed interest in fostering ties with the MCCIA to facilitate business exchanges between Austin and Pune.



Austin dignitaries visit to Pune

Ashwin and Bhanu Ghatalia of Austin visited Pune in February and felicitated the students of Pune Vidyarthi Grih who participated in a robotic contest that was organised in collaboration with Austin's Westlake High School Robotics Pirhos. This was done in collaboration with Vishwakalyan Gurukul Seva Foundation (Pune)



Global Collaboration Partners Garje Marathi Global (GMG)



Garje Marathi Global (GMG) has several initiatives, including cybersecurity, which is part of their broader focus on Information Technology (IT) alongside blockchain and crypto technologies. These are integrated into their annual events such as the Garje Marathi Global Excellence Summit, which includes discussions and workshops related to cybersecurity among other emerging technologies. This reflects GMG's commitment to advancing knowledge and capabilities in crucial, cutting-edge fields relevant to the Marathi diaspora and beyond

Garje Marathi Global (GMG) is a platform dedicated to connecting and empowering the Marathi diaspora worldwide, focusing on individuals who value knowledge, education, and entrepreneurship. This organization aims to support global Maharashtrians through various programs and initiatives.

The Cybersecurity community of GMG has offered to support this initiative. The coordinator of the committee Lalit Shinde had visited Pune in April 2024. Also in the monthly meeting of the community, Dinanath Kholkar was invited to present about the initiative. Many members of this community are experts in cybersecurity and have offered to do webinars and guide the initiative with their mentoring and connects.

Advisory committee meeting



The advisory committee met at the MCCIA office on Friday 29th March 2024 to review the progress of the initiative and shape up the roadmap for FY25 and beyond. The committee discussed the KPIs and also the immediate action plan focused on education and skill development. A plan was chalked out to work with academia partners to adopt recommendations on excellence in cybersecurity education.

Here's a summary of the action plan:

1. Review cybersecurity programmes across academic institutions in the city to ensure alignment with evolving threats, best practices, and industry requirements.
2. Producing publications to disseminate insights and advancements in the field.
3. Monitoring the implementation of recommendations.
4. Assessing the establishment and activity of college cybersecurity clubs, promoting student engagement and knowledge-sharing.
5. Organising Capture the Flag (CTF) competitions to challenge and enhance participants' skills in cybersecurity.
6. Recommending and evaluating Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs) with incentives linked to continuous learning and professional development.
7. Engaging and evaluating team participation in college bug bounty programmes, incentivising proactive identification and resolution of security vulnerabilities.
8. Introducing cybersecurity competitions tailored for non-science students, expanding awareness and participation across diverse academic disciplines.
9. Identifying and inviting speakers for a talk series to share insights, experiences, and expertise in cybersecurity. This will be catered to both students and professionals.
10. Introducing fellowship opportunities to support and cultivate emerging talent in the cybersecurity domain.

It was also recommended that we include experts from finance and legal in the advisory committee. Following that, we expanded the committee by including legal expert Vaishali Bhagwat and CA Rishabh Parakh.



Advisory Committee

Key Performance Indicators for FY25 & planned activities



Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)



10
publications



10
Events

(Expert talks, Interviews, Round tables, CxO breakfast meetings)



100
MSMEs

whose IT/Infosec implementations would be noticeably improved as part of the RAMP initiative that our initiative will enable



1000
Students

and faculty members of cybersecurity in Pune colleges



10,000
Professionals

who would benefit from this skill development effort



100,000
Citizen

awareness beneficiaries covering non-cyber security engineering students and students from other streams.

Planned Activities

- Articles by the members of the advisory committee
- Additional publications from MCCIA specifically for the industry
- CxO breakfast meetings and interactions with CISOs
- Pune senior leadership meets to create awareness of cyber risks and their implications for business and the region's economy
- Webinars and Interviews with experts
- Round table on sectoral cyber security skills
- Round table with the start-up community
- Round table with IIMM to discuss cyber risks in the supply chain
- Capacity building programmes for women IT professionals

Beneficiaries

Students of cybersecurity

The initial focus of the initiative would be on the students who have cybersecurity as part of their educational curriculum. Also, students who have a keen interest in this subject would be part of a cybersecurity club in their institute. It is important that these students build up the aspirations to take up cybersecurity as a profession and hence the right level of exposure to experts in this domain including product company leaders, CISOs, CIOs, CTOs, and also researchers in this field. We will enable this connect through webinars and events that will be organised for the students. Given the vastness of this field and its dynamic nature, the students need to have a range of learning paths and also a decent amount of hands-on exposure. The cybersecurity club in each of the institutions would be a sustained source of knowledge sharing and exchanging ideas. One of the key activities of this club would be to organise CTF (Capture The Flag) competitions and bug-bounty contests in the institute and also ensure that their best participate at regional and national contests. Our knowledge partner IIT B Trust Lab will play an active role in this student community.

For FY25, we have set a goal to have this a 1000-member community across 25-30 colleges in the Pune region.

Cybersecurity faculty member

This would be a critical constituent in our initiative as they would be a channel for knowledge dissemination and evolving the journey of education excellence. A focused workshop with all such faculty members is being planned on 17th May 2024 along with a few members of the Advisory committee. The objective is to form this community and update them on the overall plan of the initiative and make them an important stakeholder in the learning & sharing process.

These faculty members would be encouraged to share their best practices and also highlight areas where they need help. This community will constantly evolve teaching and lab practices in the institutes and will shape up a handbook that would be a reference. Special faculty development programs and interactions with practitioners in the industry would be enabled with the help of our knowledge partners. The faculty members would also be encouraged to leverage IEEE and ACM as part of their continuous learning process.

Successful roll-out and outcomes of the initiative in the respective institute would significantly depend on the passion and drive of these faculty members. Their participation and guidance to the students in CTF, Bug-bounty, awareness programs, and talks, etc. would go a long way.

MSMEs

MCCIA is aggressively driving the RAMP program for the MSMEs. As part of the digital adoption and transformation process, the MSMEs will have to increase their focus on cyber resilience. As part of the orientation and awareness drives, a cybersecurity module will be introduced. This will serve as an overview and encourage the MSME to plan the necessary steps to strengthen their cyber resilience.

As part of the initiative, we plan to focus on a minimum of 100 MSMEs and help them strengthen their IT / InfoSec policies and provide guidance and hand-holding on the implementation process. MSMEs will have to register to be part of this track and MCCIA will pick up the most suitable candidates depending on the available capacity and the readiness and focus of the MSME to drive the recommended implementations.

This will be driven with our knowledge partner DSCI, who have committed to work closely on this initiative and shape this up for the MSMEs.

The awareness drives taken up by MCCIA, as part of the RAMP program, and also the various events that would be organised should be able to reach 10,000 individuals in the industry.

Capacity building programme for women IT professionals

Our capacity building programme for women IT professionals is designed to address the challenges faced by highly educated women in India who are on a job break. Re-entering the workforce can be daunting for women engineers and postgraduates currently on hiatus, as they face significant barriers. With a substantial number in this demographic seeking to return to work, the need for support and opportunities is crucial. These individuals often lose touch with industry trends and require reskilling and upskilling to become fast employable in today's rapidly evolving technology landscape. Recognizing this need, our programme aims to provide structured training programmes, hands-on labs, workshops, internship opportunities, and career guidance in Cyber Security. By connecting participants with corporates for internship and job opportunities, we facilitate their transition back into the workforce, empowering them to excel in the IT industry.

MCCIA, WiMLDS Pune, DSCI along with other corporates are actively involved in planning and designing a capacity building programme for women IT professionals.

Advisory Committee

An advisory committee composed of ten members with expertise spanning various domains within cybersecurity and allied disciplines has been established to offer guidance for the cybersecurity initiative.



Rohit Srivastwa
Chairperson of the Advisory Committee

Rohit has been a serial entrepreneur and a multifaceted professional with experience in cybersecurity, Enterprise Security, Secure Digital Transformation, and Cyberwarfare. He also advises several Military agencies, Law Enforcement, Corporate, and Government bodies of different countries in these fields. He has authored a book “My Data, My Privacy, My Choice” on personal data security and privacy for tech and non-techies. His upcoming book “Cyber Resilience: A Strategic Handbook for Business Leaders” is awaited.

“In light of the current landscape, cybersecurity emerges as an imperative, with a notable disparity between ideal practices and prevailing realities. We’ve initiated this endeavour to enhance our collective stance and foster synergy between academia and industry. It’s my privilege to chair the advisory committee, uniting experts to craft outcome-oriented programs. We aspire to position Pune as India’s premier cybersecurity hub, leveraging its potential to cultivate innovation and expertise in this critical domain”



Shweta Chawla

Shweta A. Chawla is the founder and chief investigator at SC Cyber Solutions, Pune. An independent digital forensic investigator with almost two decades of experience in digital forensics and cyber investigations, Shweta has investigated numerous cases for companies and individuals and consulted on investigations for multiple law enforcement agencies. When not investigating or researching, she teaches cyber forensics at various institutes. Shweta is also an invited speaker at prestigious institutions like Head Quarters, Southern Command, Pune, Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, National Crime Records Bureau, the Maharashtra Police Academy, and CDAC Pune.

“I think a cybersecurity initiative is essential in today’s environment. I hope it helps foster an environment where companies and institutions can get the required assistance to improve security posture and deal with breaches appropriately”



Dr. Rajesh Ingle

Dr. Rajesh Ingle is a Dean (Academics), HoD (CSE), and Professor in Computer Science and Engineering at the International Institute of Information Technology, Naya Raipur (IIIT-NR). He pursued his PhD from CSE, IIT Bombay. He has published more than 85 research papers in journals and conference proceedings of international repute. He is a distinguished Senior Member of IEEE. Dr. Ingle has carried out many research and consultancy projects. His guidance has influenced over 650 projects at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, with some students completing their PhD (Computer Science and Engineering) under his supervision and some engaged in doctoral research.

“This is an excellent and relevant initiative, as cybersecurity threats are now more common than ever. The real question is: “Are you ready if an attack happens?” Cybersecurity is vital for businesses because it safeguards sensitive data, including customer information, financial records, and proprietary technology. It has become a paramount concern for businesses of all sizes”



Dr. Faruk Kazi

Faruk Kazi received his PhD degree from IIT Bombay in 2009. He is a Professor at VJTI and the Director of the R&D Cell at the University of Mumbai. He works in the domain of cyber-physical systems and critical infrastructure security. His research interests include SCADA security, Industrial Control Systems (ICS), and Operational Technology (OT) security. His team has discovered over 40 vulnerabilities in OEM OT products like Schneider, ABB, GE, Rockwell Automation, Mitsubishi, and SEL. He has received research funding from the National Security Council Secretariate, ISRO, BARC, DST, RGSTC, DRDO, etc. He has delivered invited talks and presented his research work at MIT USA, SUPELEC, CNRS, Paris (France), Budapest (Hungary), Florence (Italy), and Japan.

“MCCIA has taken a very timely initiative to bring together industry, MSMEs, startups, academia, and policymakers to ensure cyber security of digital and critical infrastructures. The Initiative shall foster international collaborations to bring best practices in this domain and support indigenous technology development”



Mukul Joshi

Mukul Joshi is the Programme Director at IITB Trust Lab in the Computer Science Department at IIT Bombay. He is responsible for crafting and executing various research, academic, and technology programmes to ensure that IITB Trust Lab delivers on its vision. He is a successful entrepreneur with two decades of experience in software R&D and product engineering. Before joining Trust Lab, Mukul was a VP at Turing (a Unicorn now) & was a part of its AI/ML leadership. His company SpotOn became a boutique/niche software technology and R&D services company. Nitor later acquired it. He built the technology practice there and led developments while handling the entire Enterprise P&L, including Sales, engineering & delivery responsibilities.

“I am thrilled to join the advisory committee and eager to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application, ensuring our digital landscape stays resilient and secure”



Dr. Manisha Nene

Dr. Manisha J Nene is a distinguished Director at the School of Computer Engineering & Mathematical Sciences (SoCE&MS) within the esteemed Defense Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT DRDO), which operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Defense (MoD) in India. Dr. Nene is well-regarded and respected in her field and has more than 20 years of experience in research, industry, and academia. Her area of expertise is in Cyber-Security and Artificial Intelligence, where she specialises in developing secure and intelligent Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS), aspects of Big Data, analysing algorithms, and exploring the latest developments in Quantum Computing and Algorithms. She has supervised more than 40 postgraduate theses and three PhD students in Cyber-Security and AI and currently has four PhD students under her guidance.

“I look forward to contributing to this initiative by leveraging the alumni of DIAT and IEEE Pune section”



Shivangi Nadkarni

Shivangi Nadkarni has over 25 years of experience in the domains of Data Privacy, Information Security & Networking. She co-founded Arrka. Arrka empowers organisations to implement & manage their Data Privacy programmes via their Privacy Management Platform, Privacy Lab, and Training Academy. She has served on the Asia Advisory Board of the IAPP (International Association of Privacy Professionals – the world’s largest Privacy Body). She is currently on their Women Leading Privacy Advisory Board. Shivangi & her co-founder have steered Arrka over the last decade and won several accolades and recognitions– including the prestigious Deloitte Tech Fast 50 two years in a row.

“As data explodes, the need to manage the associated risks will only continue accelerating. Pune as a city is perfectly positioned to become a hub for building this expertise - with its large tech sector, educational hub, access to an excellent talent pool, and reputation of being a great city to live in. This initiative is an excellent vehicle to translate this vision into reality. I am privileged to get an opportunity to contribute towards this in a small way”



Rishabh Parakh

Rishabh Parakh helps HNI’s/Leaders/CEOs manage their taxation and financial matters. Rishabh set up NRP Capitals (formerly known as Money Plant Consultancy) to empower fellow Indians to make the right financial decisions. He has 20+ years of global working experience with 5000+ Clients across India, Singapore, and the UK through his firm. He is also the author of the book titled “Financial Spirituality”. He shares his views regularly with the leading global media like Forbes, MoneyControl, The Economic Times, Forbes, CNBC, etc.

“In an era where data is the new oil, cybersecurity is not just an option but a fundamental necessity, safeguarding our digital treasures against ever-evolving threats. This initiative represents a proactive step forward, harnessing cutting-edge cybersecurity measures to ensure the integrity and resilience of digital infrastructure, poised to protect stakeholders now and into the future”



Vaishali Bhagwat

Vaishali Bhagwat, a seasoned lawyer, has 25 years of experience in civil and cyber litigation and advisory services across Pune and Mumbai. Serving as a trusted advisor to numerous companies, she specialises in navigating commercial and employment concerns. With a track record of successfully handling high-profile cases involving corporate espionage, Data theft, Data Privacy, Digital Financial fraud, Cybercrimes against women and children, taking down orders, and IP infringement in cyberspace, Vaishali has earned a reputation for her proficiency. Additionally, she has occupied esteemed positions on various boards and councils focusing on cybersecurity, corporate governance, education, and women's issues. Vaishali's remarkable contributions have earned her several accolades, cementing her status as an esteemed professional.

"Data Privacy and security are not just a good thing to have but are an inherent and inalienable right of any individual. Corporations that get this balance right between Privacy and Innovation will be the game changers"



Dr. Sachin Lodha

Sachin Lodha is part of TCS's Corporate Research and Innovation team and heads its cybersecurity and Privacy research that works on diverse problems on trustworthy AI, de-risking cloud, securing IoT, quantum resilience, privacy by design, and human aspects. He has a particular interest in data privacy and related topics. His efforts have led to multiple research papers, patents, and award-winning innovations available as commercial TCS products. Sachin Lodha graduated with a B.Tech. in Computer Science and Engineering from IIT Bombay and received his PhD in Computer Science from Rutgers University, USA, in 2002. He is a member of ACM India Council, ACM India's Cybersecurity Task Force, TCS's own Cybersecurity Task Force, and the Working Group for drafting the guidelines on "Anonymization of Data" under the project "e-Governance Standards and Guidelines" by MeitY.

"This timely initiative aims to pursue a proactive and collaborative approach encompassing people, processes, and technological innovation to make cyberspace secure, stable, and resilient. Its significance will only grow with time as the digital landscape continues evolving at an unprecedented pace, bringing myriad opportunities and challenges!"

Launch of handbook of MCCIA's Cybersecurity Initiative

This publication was launched by H.E. US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti at an event organised at the MCCIA office on 20th May, 2024. His attendance underscored robust support for MCCIA's efforts in advancing cybersecurity. Also present at the event was Yashasvi Yadav, Inspector General of Cybersecurity of Maharashtra state and Mike Hankey US Consul General at Mumbai.

Discussions during the session emphasized the critical importance of cybersecurity in today's digital landscape and the need for collaborative efforts to address emerging threats. Ambassador Garcetti commended Pune's progress in bolstering cybersecurity infrastructure and recognized MCCIA's pivotal role in fostering economic development, particularly among MSMEs. Mr. Yadav, highlighted the gravity of cybersecurity challenges and the imperative for enhanced measures. The session facilitated meaningful exchanges on cybersecurity strategies and initiatives aimed at enhancing local cybersecurity capabilities.

Overall, there was a commitment towards collaborative efforts aimed at fortifying cybersecurity resilience and supporting local economic growth through MCCIA's initiative. The presence of Ambassador Garcetti and Yashasvi Yadav underscored international and local commitment to advancing cybersecurity initiatives in Pune.



Knowledge Partner

MAHARASHTRA STATE
SKILLS UNIVERSITY

Maharashtra State Skills University (MSSU)

MCCIA is in discussions with Maharashtra State Skills University (MSSU) to bolster cybersecurity educational initiatives. Leveraging MSSU's cybersecurity lab set up at the ITI-Aundh campus and their cybersecurity programs, MCCIA aims to shape up upskilling programs for MSME IT professionals and a special program for women IT professionals who are on a career break. Their programs can also be leveraged by IT professionals wanting to build specialisation in cybersecurity.

MSSU stands as a pioneering institution, dedicated to cultivating highly skilled and employable youth. It champions job creation and delivers top-tier skill education, fostering startups, providing robust incubation facilities, and enhancing employability through training, counseling, apprenticeships, and on-the-job learning. MSSU's integrated approach, deeply rooted in industry partnerships, promotes inclusive growth by facilitating employment opportunities and offering self-employment guidance to uplift youth incomes.

Moreover, MSSU plays a pivotal role in empowering economically disadvantaged communities by offering skill development, employment opportunities, and support for entrepreneurship and self-employment. By producing a proficient and job-ready workforce, MSSU contributes significantly to reducing unemployment and driving economic growth across the state.

In collaboration with MCCIA, MSSU is committed to advancing cybersecurity education, thereby fortifying the region's technological landscape and fostering a resilient workforce prepared for the digital challenges of tomorrow. MSSU Vice-chancellor Dr. Apoorva Palkar and registrar Dr. Rajendra Talware are in discussions with the MCCIA team.

Collaboration Partner

SEAP

SEAP Pune

SEAP is the Platform for CXOs of Technology Organizations in Pune. SEAP fosters a thriving community of technology leaders, innovators, and business stakeholders in Pune by supporting and facilitating corporate, personal, and community development goals.



Dr. Mashelkar, globally recognized for his pioneering research in polymer science and engineering, transformative leadership of major Indian R&D institutions, and pivotal role in advancing India's intellectual property landscape, appreciated the MCCIA cybersecurity initiative and has offered his full support for the same. He has given guidance about driving this initiative with speed and scale.

“In an age where digital transformation drives unprecedented growth and innovation, it is imperative for business leaders to understand the inherent cyber security risks. Cybersecurity is no longer a domain confined to IT departments but a critical business requirement demanding strategic oversight by business leaders.

I am very impressed with the collaborative eco system that has been set up. Action leadership is key to reach maximum end beneficiaries. The aspiration to build Pune city as the centre of excellence for Cybersecurity would require wholehearted citizen, students and professionals support and participation in this initiative”, Dr. Mashelkar said.

Afterword



Mr. Dinanath Kholkar

As the Chair of the IT/ITES committee, I am honored to guide the MCCIA Cybersecurity Initiative. Over the past few months, we have shaped up a vibrant ecosystem that is contributing and benefiting from the efforts. With a diverse set of expertise, the members of the advisory committee have shaped up the roadmap and goals for FY25 and we look forward to all your support to deliver the outcomes.

The collaboration with the US Consulate in Mumbai marks a significant step towards fortifying digital ties between India and the United States. With an aspiration to make Pune city as the centre of excellence for cybersecurity, it clearly helps the positioning of Pune globally. At the same time it serves the needs of a large MSME community in the region through the RAMP program.

Through this initiative, we are committed to staying ahead of the Cyber risk challenges, leveraging the expertise of cybersecurity professionals to develop a large talent pool to meet the growing demand. Also, we hope that some of them will aspire to develop cutting-edge strategies and technologies. Our focus on re-Skilling of women IT professionals on a career break, will definitely need support from IT companies and GCCs and we seek their active participation in our efforts.

This collaboration underscores the strategic importance of cybersecurity for economic growth and national security. By promoting a secure and stable cyberspace, we aim to bolster trust and reliability in digital transactions, fostering innovation and economic prosperity. Additionally, safeguarding critical infrastructure and sensitive information is essential for protecting national interests and ensuring the safety of our citizens.

As a roadmap, we expect this initiative to evolve beyond Education & Training and cover various other dimensions viz. Research & Development, Policy & Standards Development, Incident Response & Forensics, Public Awareness & Outreach and Innovation & Commercialisation

I look forward to further evolving this ecosystem with an inclusive mind-set and a razor-sharp focus on delivering the outcomes.

With regards,
Mr. Dinanath Kholkar
Independent Advisor, Former SVP TCS
Chair IT/ITES Committee, MCCIA

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MAHRATTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRIES AND AGRICULTURE

MCCIA is one of the few Chambers of Commerce in India which was established before independence. We have been instrumental in honing Pune's potential for enterprise and innovation. With a focus on enriching business networking utilising the potential of our 3000 + members and a mission to strengthen & empower the industry of Maharashtra since the last 90 years.

Broadly, the Chamber has always functioned under three main pillars - Advocacy, Skill Building and Networking. Firstly, MCCIA has been championing the needs of the industry, on behalf of the industry. Secondly, owing to the intensified need for a skilled workforce, especially in the MSME segment, MCCIA has been conducting and promoting various capacity building initiatives to accelerate organisations towards a higher growth trajectory. Thirdly, MCCIA has always promoted an environment of collaboration by helping local MSMEs with key business networking, thereby enabling them to develop long-term mutually beneficial relationships.



**MAHRATTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
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