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Message

The phenomenal success of Indian outsourcing industry has positioned India as the global hub of IT and BPO services. The Digital India program is predicated on increasing penetration of internet services and broadband even in remote areas. Unfortunately, the rising number of internet users in India, that has crossed 400 million this year, has been accompanied by growing cyber crimes—culminating in approx 19 fold increase over the decade. Moreover, our government's ambitious programmes of Digital India and Make in India, which have the potential for closer integration of global supply chains with those in the country, calls for a robust cyber security programme. In such a backdrop, cyber security is an imperative as never before.

With rapidly growing interconnected business operations and increasing digitization, cyber security challenges are bound to intensify, therefore, it is essential for us as a country to comprehensively understand the threats associated with the use of technology, ranging from petty cyber crimes impacting an individual to sophisticated cyber attacks impacting national security, and operating in 'cyberspace'- which is emerging as a fifth domain for warfare, alongwith land, sea, air and space, that has no geographical boundaries and cuts across jurisdictions. In cyberspace, we need to defend ourselves against international crime syndicates, terrorists, rogue nation states, competitors and disgruntled insiders, who operate from anywhere in the world and exploit vulnerabilities in IT systems to achieve their motives.

Cyber security in India has come a long way in the past few years and has gained huge importance in recent times with the thrust on Digital India, e-commerce and mobile payments. Effective measures need to be taken to ensure protection against cyber attacks and threats. This new responsibility, however, does not lie solely with the Government; private sector has a major role to play since more than 80 percent of the Critical Information Infrastructure is owned and operated by the private sector. There needs to be a strong and effective public-private partnership in cyber security as envisaged in the draft cyber security policy released by Deity.

In this emerging scenario it is also imperative that nuances of cyber security, forensic law etc be part of the training curriculum of IT professionals. IETE can play a leading role in educating and skilling India's digital workforce. In addition, with it's vast pan India network of Centres, it can help monitor the implementation of cyber security measures in both public and private sector organizations.

I am confident that the foundation day celebrations at all our Centres across the country will provide an effective platform to discuss, understand, educate and spread awareness on the latest trends and advances in cyber security.

Lt Gen (Dr) AKS Chandele PVSM, AVSM (Retd)
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