106 D. 11) Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security (CySeck)

1. The CoE's monthly newsletter completed one year in May 2022. Minister Dr. CN Ashwatha Narayan unveiled the first anniversary edition at his office in Vikasa Soudha in June-2022. So far 18 editions of Cyber Vartika are published, with reach of more than 25 thousand people.

2. Four proposals out of 50 submissions were selected for providing initial research grant of Rs. Two Lakhs. The progress of the projects will be continually reviewed by a panel of experts. The projects will be eligible for further grant of Rs. Ten Lakhs after one year on satisfactory progress.

3. The second cohort of the CoE's accelerator program for start-ups is in progress, with 14 start-ups part of the cohort. The accelerator is branded as H.A.C.K. – which is a recursive acronym and expands as HACK is an Accelerator for Cyber security in Karnataka.
4. MoUs were signed with VMWare and Dell for providing mentoring to the start-ups.
5. The CoE has launched an initiative branded Cyber Maatrika – in partnership with iSPIRT - to prepare model RFP specifications for various cybersecurity solutions. A pilot for Cyber Maatrika was completed for SIEM solution.
6. Two-day training programme on secure code practices was conducted for developers in Agriculture department. 15 participants attended this training.
7. Conducted one-day training on blockchain and crypto assets for police officers of Bengaluru City Police in which around 40 officers participated.
8. The CoE is supporting the Department of Technical Education in rolling out Cybersecurity specialisation for diploma students. Two rounds of workshops with experts from industry and academia was conducted to prepare cybersecurity syllabus for polytechnic courses. Further, six-day training was conducted for faculty of the diploma courses, in which 57 faculty participated.
9. National Cybersecurity Awareness Month was observed in the month of October-2022. The programme was inaugurated by Minister Dr. CN Ashwatha Narayan at Vidhana Soudha. During the event, the Minister also felicitated the industry partners who supported the month-long programme.

The following activities were conducted.

a) Daily social media posts on various aspects of cybersecurity
b) Weekly contests to bring in awareness of cyber risks through gamification. A total of 483 participants took part in the contests.
c) Online course "Introduction to Cybersecurity" for students at Higher Educational Institutes in the state. 5,341 students have registered.
d) Awareness session at IAS Officer's Association