



Cyber Security Exercise “Synergy”

Why in News?

Recently, **Computer Emergency Response Team - India (CERT-In)** successfully designed & conducted the **Cyber Security Exercise “Synergy”** for 13 Countries as part of the **International Counter Ransomware Initiative**.

- The exercise was conducted as part of the International Counter Ransomware Initiative- Resilience Working Group which is being led by India under the leadership of [National Security Council Secretariat \(NSCS\)](#).

What is CERT-IN?

- Computer Emergency Response Team - India is an **organisation of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** with the objective of securing Indian cyberspace.
- It is a **nodal agency which deals with cybersecurity threats** like hacking and phishing.
- It collects, analyses and disseminates information on cyber incidents, and also **issues alert on cybersecurity incidents**.
- CERT-IN provides **Incident Prevention and Response Services** as well as Security Quality Management Services.

What is Synergy?

- **About:**
 - Synergy is a **Cyber Security Exercise** which is successfully designed & conducted by CERT-In in collaboration with **Cyber Security Agency of Singapore (CSA)**.
 - The exercise scenario was derived from real life cyber incidents, in which a domestic level (limited impact) ransomware incident escalates to a global cyber security crisis.
 - Each State participated as a **National Crisis Management Team having composition from different government agencies** including National CERTs/CSIRTs, Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA), Communication & IT/ICT Ministry and Security agencies.
- **Objectives:**
 - To **Assess, Share and Improve strategies** and practices among Member-States to build network resiliency against [ransomware](#) & [cyber extortion attacks](#).
- **Theme:**
 - Building Network Resiliency to Counter Ransomware Attacks.

What is Ransomware?

- Ransomware is a **malware designed to deny a user or organization access to files** on their computer.
- By encrypting these files and demanding a ransom payment for the decryption key, **cyber attackers place organizations in a position where paying the ransom is the easiest and cheapest way to regain access** to their files.

- Some variants have added additional functionality – such as data theft – to provide further incentive for ransomware victims to pay the ransom.

What are Government Initiatives for Cyber Security?

- [Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiative](#)
- [Cyber Swachhta Kendra](#)
- [Online cybercrime reporting portal](#)
- [Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre \(I4C\)](#)
- [National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre \(NCIIPC\)](#)
- [Information Technology Act, 2000](#)
- [National Cyber Security Strategy 2020](#)

[Source: PIB](#)

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