Dark Net

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Introduction

❑ Dark net refers to encrypted networks on Internet that are not indexed by search engines.
  ❑ It is a layer of the Internet accessible only by using special software like Tor (The Onion Router), or I2P (Invisible Internet Project).
❑ Dark net provides anonymity to the users.

Dark Net, Deep Web and Surface Web

❑ The deep web refers to unindexed sites which are unsearchable.
❑ Part of the World Wide Web (WWW) which is not indexed by a search engine like Google is Deep web. **Dark net/Dark web is a part of Deep Web.**
❑ **Surface Web** is that portion of the WWW that is readily available to the general public and searchable with standard web search engines.
  ○ It is the opposite of the deep web. It only constitutes 4-6% of the whole web.

Usefulness of DarkNet

❑ To avoid Censorship from authoritarian governments.
❑ Provides Anonymity and Secrecy from surveillance and snooping.
❑ Useful for **whistleblowers and journalists** to maintain secrecy in communication and leaking and transferring information.

Concerns

❑ **Facilitates Illegal Activities:** major haven for drug dealers, arms traffickers, child pornography collectors and other criminals involved in financial and physical crimes.
❑ Used by terrorists for information sharing, to recruit and radicalize.
❑ Used to spread propaganda, raise funds, to coordinate actions and attacks, for illegal purchase of explosives and weapons, using virtual currencies like Bitcoin and other crypto-currencies.
❑ Hackers and fraudsters offer access to SCADA and ICS systems via discussion forums on the dark web, potentially compromising vital infrastructure networks across the world.

Way Forward

❑ Governments across the world should strengthen their Cybersecurity Framework.
❑ A need to secure the Cyberspaces worldwide through intelligence, information, technology and expertise sharing.
❑ India should invest enough in R&D, training & capacity building in Cybersecurity.
  ○ Kerala Police department's **Cyberdome initiative** a step in the right direction.

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For TTP