



## Darknet

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 [drishtiias.com/printpdf/darknet](https://drishtiias.com/printpdf/darknet)

The Kerala Police has set up a '**state-of-the-art lab**' to intervene and crack down on the rising criminal activities over the **Darknet**, also known as the underworld of the Internet.

Spearheading the programme is **Cyberdome**, the State police department's premier facility dedicated to prevent cybercrime and **mitigate security threats to the State's critical information infrastructure**.

- **Internet consists of three layers:**

- The first layer is **public**, consisting of sites that one uses frequently such as Facebook, Twitter, Amazon and LinkedIn. This layer makes up only 4% of the entire internet.
- The second layer, **the deep web**, is a network where data is stored in inaccessible databases (i.e. cannot be accessed through traditional search engines like Google). It is used to provide access to a specific group of people. The data is generally sensitive and private (government private data, bank data, cloud data etc), so kept out of reach.
- The third layer is the **darknet** which is also known as a part of the 'Deep Web'. It is a network built over the **internet which is encrypted**.
  - It is basically a layer of the Internet accessible **only by using special software like Tor (The Onion Router)**, or I2P, which stands for Invisible Internet Project.
  - Anything present on the dark web will not be pulled up in internet searches, thereby offering a **high degree of anonymity**.

- **Concerns over Darknet:**

- In February 2016, in a study titled 'Cryptopolitik and the Darknet', researchers analysed content over the TOR network. Of the 2,723 websites they could classify by content, 1,547 – 57 % – hosted **illicit material ranging from drugs** (423 sites), **illegitimate pornography** (122) and hacking (96), among others.
- There were also reports of log-in details of streaming sites like Netflix being sold

on the dark web marketplaces for cheap rates.

- The network is also **used by several activists** especially those living under oppressive regimes to communicate without any government censorship.

The TOR network was used by activists during the Arab Spring.

- **Darknet and India:**

- The **Information Technology Act** deals with cybercrime and comes under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. There are only six sections in the law that deal with cybercrime.
- With the changing times, India needs a code of criminal procedures dealing with cybercrime that would come under the Ministry of Home Affairs, which deals with policing issues.
- Also, there is a need for police, trained in changing cyber trends who are dedicated only to cybercrime and not transferred to other police units.

**Source: TH**