

Presentation of
**PALS, an IIT Alumni Initiative - Cyber Security
Conclave**

6th March
IIT Madras, Chennai

COVERAGE DOSSIER PRESENTED BY
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The Times of India – Pg 3, Dt 7th March 2024

IIT alumni, Aus univ hold cyber conclave

Chennai: PALS, an IIT alumni Initiative, in association with Edith Cowan University, Australia, conducted a conclave on Wednesday – PALS-ECU Cyber Edge 2024 at IIT Madras.

According to a statement, as part of the event, they organised PECAN + Capture the Flag (CTF), a cyber security competition. IT minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan was the chief guest, IIT Madras director V Kamakoti was the guest of honour, and Nashid Chowdhury, investment and trade commissioner, India-Gulf, government of Western Australia, was the special guest.

PALS chairman P V Mohan welcomed the dignitaries and congratulated the PALS team for the first international engagement since 2012. He also thanked the 44 partner institutes and the support rendered by the Office of Global engagement.

On the occasion, Palanivel Thiaga Rajan said, "India is going to be the pioneer of human capital for the next generation. I am happy that PALS has organised this event in association with Australia. This can be a template for how to reach out to the younger generation to equip them for a better future." TNN

The Hindu Business Line – PG 14, DT 7th March 2024

Ethical hacking, the next big employment opportunity, says IIT Madras Director

Our Bureau
Chennai

Ethical hacking is going to be the next big employment opportunity for students, said V Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras. He told students to not get carried away by the negative perception of ethical hacking. He added that there is a great future in this sector.

“Please work on this sector and pursue this as a career and I am sure, if not today, but in the next couple of years. You will have great years ahead,” he said at an event on cyber security held in the institute on Wednesday.

He emphasised that those who are working in the area of cyber security should continue to work on it. There are very big challenges in the sector, he said in his address at PALS, an IIT Alumni Initiative - PALS-ECU (Edith Cowan University, Aus-

tralia) “CYBER EDGE 2024” Building Cybersecurity Capabilities.

CYBER AUDITS

He said that the students have a great career opportunity in front of them as the whole world is facing big challenges in cyber security. Like the Chartered Accountants signing the audited reports, in the future there will be certified cyber audited professionals to sign cyber audit reports, he said.

“Staying safe in the digital world is something that is evolving on a daily basis. I have been working in this [cyber security] area for the last 15 years. I am a member of the National Security Board. If you ask me the question if you are safe in the cyber world, the answer is no,” he added.

He mentioned that in G20 there was a separate vertical for cyber security. To add salt to the wound, there is now the bad part



of Artificial Intelligence adding more worries on the issue of cyber security, he said.

Cyber security needs a holistic treatment, he said. A big combination of government for regulation for policies; academia for putting certain processes in place and the industry to implement it and take it forward, he added.

UMAGINE CHENNAI

For a safe cyber world, the one and only way required is a strong academia-industry-government collaboration, understanding the policies and putting them to-

gether, he said. Tamil Nadu's IT minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan quoting a speaker at the recently held Uagine in Chennai about cyber security, said, “if you are going to be in cyber security, you will not be unemployed for the next 40-50 years.” This gives a sense of the job opportunities in the cyber security sector. A case in point on the challenges of cyber security was the attacks on Facebook and Instagram on Tuesday. These are small organisations, he said.

The minister said a lot needs to be done in cyber security in Tamil Nadu, and the government will be looking at partners and a new approach as soon as the Model Code of Conduct is over. “We need to standardise and bring everything in to same framework. Right now, the government of Tamil Nadu has 50 different platforms. I have no idea [as an IT minister] about the scale of the risk profile and the shape of it,” he said.

The New Indian Express – Pg 4, Dt 7th March 2024

‘Employment readiness in TN way higher than nat’l average’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Chennai

TAMIL Nadu has had the privilege of focusing on education for many decades and the state’s employment readiness is much higher than the country’s average, said Minister of Information Technology and Digital Services Palanivel Thiagarajan on Wednesday.

Speaking at the PALS-ECU Cyber Edge 2024 conclave at IIT-Madras on Wednesday, the minister noted Tamil Nadu can be a major source for manpower. “Our chief minister has two ambitions: to turn TN into a trillion dollar economy, and to make it the human resource capital of the world,” he said.

Nashid Chowdhury, Investment and Trade Commissioner (India-Gulf region), Government of Western Australia, said, “There are many opportunities yet to be explored.”

IIT-M Director Professor V Kamakoti also took part in the the conclave that has the theme - Staying Safe in the Digital World.

TN's employment readiness much higher than country's average: PTR

CHENNAI: State Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services, Palanivel Thiaga Rajan on Wednesday said Tamil Nadu's employment readiness is much higher than the country's average.

Delivering a keynote address at the PALS-ECU Cyber Edge 2024 conclave, held at the IIT-Madras campus, Palanivel Thiaga Rajan said, "India is going to be the pioneer of human capital for the next generation. I am happy that PALS has organised the event in association with Australia. This can be a template for how to reach out to the younger generation to equip them for a better future."

"In Tamil Nadu, we have had the privilege of focusing on education for many decades. Tamil Nadu's employment readiness is much higher than the country's average. Thanks to the guidance of the Chief Minister MK Stalin, Tamil Nadu can be the source of global manpower," he noted.

Welcoming the initiative, V Kamakoti, Director of IIT-M said, "I am glad to attend this event by PALS, a network of IIT



Palanivel Thiaga Rajan speaks at the conclave in IIT-Madras

alumni from across the world. They have been doing a wonderful job of educating students from various engineering colleges on cybersecurity and other things.

This hackathon stands testimony to their commitment to a better society by igniting young minds and pushing them towards innovation."

Investment and Trade Commissioner, India-Gulf, Government of Western Australia, Nashid Chowdhury said the ever-growing partnership and re-

lationship between Australia and India is getting stronger by the day.

"Tamil Nadu has always maintained close ties with Australia. There are many opportunities which are to be explored. Focusing on the theme of 'Staying Safe in the Digital World', this conclave aims to bring to-

PALS, an IIT Alumni Initiative, in association with Edith Cowan University, Australia conducted PALS-ECU Cyber Edge 2024 conclave

gether cyber security professionals and experts in India and Australia to address the evolving threat landscape, as well as equip attendees with the knowledge and tools they need to confidently navigate the digital world," she added.

PALS, an IIT Alumni Initiative, in association with Edith Cowan University, Australia conducted a conclave — PALS-ECU Cyber Edge 2024 at IIT Madras, Chennai. As part of the event, they organised PECAN+ Capture the Flag (CTF), a Cyber Security competition.

Cybersecurity meet as IIT-M Alumni initiative

Chennai: PALS, an IIT Alumni initiative, in association with Edith Cowan University, Australia conducted a conclave - PALS-ECU Cyber Edge 2024 at IIT Madras.

IT Minister Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, who was chief guest, said, "India is going to be the pioneer of human capital for the next generation. In Tamil Nadu we have the privilege of focus on education for many decades. Employment readiness is much higher than the country's average."

PALS Chairperson, Mr.P V Mohan congratulated the PALS team for the first international engagement since 2012. IIT-Madras Director Prof.

V. Kamakoti said, "This alumni event makes me proud. They have been doing a wonderful job to educate students from various engineering colleges on cyber security and other things.

This hackathon stands testimony to their commitment for a better society by igniting young minds and pushing them towards innovation."

Investment and Trade Commissioner, India-Gulf, Government of Western Australia, Ms. Nashid Chowdhury said, "the ever-growing partnership and relationship between Australia and India is getting stronger by the day."

Trinity Mirror – Pg 6, Dt 14th March 2024

PALS, Edith Cowan University, Australia host cyber security awareness

Chennai, Mar 13: PALS, an IIT Alumni Initiative, in association with Edith Cowan University, Australia conducted a conclave - PALS-ECU Cyber Edge 2024 was held at IIT Madras, Chennai. As part of the event, they organised PECAN+ Capture the Flag (CTF), a Cyber Security competition on March 5. Tamil Nadu Information Technology Minister and Digital Services Minister Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan was the chief guest, IIT-Madras Director Prof. V.

Kamakoti was the guest of honour, and Investment and Trade Commissioner, India-Gulf, Government of Western Australia, Ms. Nashid Chowdhury was the special guest.

PALS Chairperson, P V Mohan welcomed the dignitaries, and congratulated the PALS team for the first international engagement since 2012. He also thanked the 44 partner institutes and the support rendered by the Office of the global engagement. He expressed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister

Dr.P. Thiagarajan and Prof.Kamakoti, Director, IITM for their presence and participation. In the background of the Cybertech conclave, he talked about the larger objective of PALS to foster collaborations between ECU and PALS partner colleges in terms of exchange programs and collaborative research.

PECAN+ CTF, the cybersecurity competition event consisted of a series of workshops aimed at introducing participants of forty-four PALS Partner Colleges to cybersecurity concepts and tools, followed by a CTF competition (Prelims & Finals). The goal is to enhance the cybersecurity skills of students and provide a platform for them to

showcase their talents. CTF competitions cover a wide range of topics, including cryptography, web exploitation, digital forensics, and more. Competing in a CTF offers numerous benefits, including Skill Development, Problem-solving, Networking, and Recognition.

இணைய பாதுகாப்பு கருத்தரங்கம்

சென்னை, மார்ச் 8: சென்னை ஐஐடியில் முன்னாள் மாணவர்களின் முன்னெடுப்பான 'பால்ஸ்', ஆஸ்திரேலியாவின் எடித் கோவன் பல் கலை. ஆகியவை சார்பில் 'சைபர் எட்ஜ் 2024' என்ற தலைப்பில் இணைய பாதுகாப்பு மற்றும் இணையக் குற்றங்களை தடுப்பதற்கான கட்டமைப்புகளை வலுப்படுத்துதல் குறித்த சிறப்பு கருத்தரங்கம் புதன்கிழமை நடைபெற்றது.

இதில், சிறப்பு அழைப்பாளராக அமைச்சர் பி.டி.ஆர். பழனிவேல் ராஜன் கலந்துகொண்டு பேசுகையில், ஐஐடி முன்னாள் மாணவர்களின் வலையமைப்பான 'பால்ஸ்' பல்வேறு பொறியியல் கல்லூரிகளைச் சேர்ந்த மாணவர்களுக்கு இணைய பாதுகாப்பு தொடர்பான விஷயங்களை கற்பிக்கும் பணியை சிறப்பாக செயலாற்றி வருகிறது.

இணைய பாதுகாப்பு வல்லுநர்கள் ஒருங்கிணைந்து செயல்படுவதன் மூலம் அந்தத் துறையில் புதிய உத்திகளை கண்டறிந்து அதன் கட்டமைப்பை மேலும் வலுப்படுத்த முடியும் என்றார் அவர்.

News Links

The Times of India

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/iit-alumni-and-edith-cowan-university-hold-cyber-conclave-at-iit-madras/articleshow/108279842.cms>

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

IIT alumni, Aus univ hold cyber conclave

TNN | Mar 7, 2024, 04:44 AM IST



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The Hindu - <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/cyber-security-needs-more-specialists-palanivel-thiagarajan/article67921663.ece>



India World Opinion Sports e-Paper

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Cyber security needs more specialists: Palanivel Thiagarajan

March 07, 2024 12:15 am | Updated 12:15 am IST - CHENNAI

THE HINDU BUREAU

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Palanivel Thiagarajan | Photo Credit: R. Ravindran

Citing a quote of one of the speakers at the recently concluded Uimage, a technology and innovation summit hosted by the Tamil Nadu government, Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services Palanivel Thiaga Rajan said, "If you are going to be in cyber security, you will not be unemployed for the next 40-50 years."

The Minister was addressing a conclave “ PALS-ECU Cyber Edge 2024” at the IIT-Madras, which was organised by PALS, an IIT Alumni Initiative, in association with Edith Cowan University, Australia. Noting that there is going to be massive job growth in this field, the Minister said, “The need for cyber security is just going to scale so rapidly and if we did not believe it yesterday’s (March 5, 2024) attack on Facebook, and Instagram which basically crippled the platforms are an immediate validator of the extensive need.”

The Minister further said, “For us as government, we need more and more specialists here in India, here in Tamil Nadu and overall for the world... the threat is only going to keep increasing.” “And with the advent of AI, there will be new shapes of threats and new forms of threats, he added.

V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT-Madras told the students that ethical hacking is going to be the next big employment opportunity. Andrew Woodward, Professor at Edith Cowan University spoke about the role of big data analytics in identifying patterns and trends in cyber threats. He also highlighted that password reuse is a big problem and to reduce the threat one needs to use a password manager.

During a panel discussion, Ramakrishna Hegde, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering said there is a need to create right talent and highlighted about the skill development courses in cyber security. “Industry plays a major role and they have to come up with what skills are required,” he added.

Dt Next- <https://www.dtnext.in/news/tamilnadu/tns-employment-is-much-much-higher-than-the-countrys-average-says-ptr-772331>

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TN's employment is much much higher than the country's average, says PTR

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Palanivel Thiagarajan

CHENNAI: State Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services, Palanivel Thiagarajan on Wednesday said Tamil Nadu's employment readiness is much much higher than the country's average.

Delivering a keynote address at the PALS-ECU cyber edge 2024 conclave, held at the IIT-Madras campus, Palanivel Thiagarajan said, "India is going to be the pioneer of human capital for the next generation. I am happy that PALS has organised the event in association with Australia. This can be a template for how to reach out to the younger generation to equip them for a better future."

"In Tamil Nadu we have had the privilege of focusing on education for many decades. Tamil Nadu's employment readiness is much much higher than the country's average. Thanks to the guidance of the Chief Minister MK Stalin, Tamil Nadu can be the source of global manpower, " he noted.

Welcoming the initiative, V Kamakoti, Director of IIT-M said, "I Am glad to attend this event by PALS, a network of IIT alumni from across the world. They have been doing a wonderful job to educate students from various engineering colleges on cyber security and other things. This hackathon stands testimony to their commitment for a better society by igniting young minds and pushing them towards innovation."

Investment and Trade Commissioner, India-Gulf, Government of Western Australia, Nashid Chowdhury said the ever-growing partnership and relationship between Australia and India is getting stronger by the day.

"Tamil Nadu has always maintained close ties with Australia. There are many opportunities which are to be explored. Focusing on the theme of 'Staying Safe in the Digital World, ' this conclave aims to bring together cyber security professionals and experts in India and Australia to address the evolving threat landscape, as well as equip attendees with the knowledge and tools they need to confidently navigate the digital world, " she added.

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Business Line- <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/on-campus/ethical-hacking-is-going-to-be-the-next-big-employment-opportunity-says-iit-madras-director/article67920044.ece>

businessline. Companies / Markets / Portfolio / Opinion / Economy **FREE TRIAL** **SUBSC**

'Ethical hacking is going to be the next big employment opportunity,' says IIT Madras' Director

Updated - March 06, 2024 at 08:54 PM.

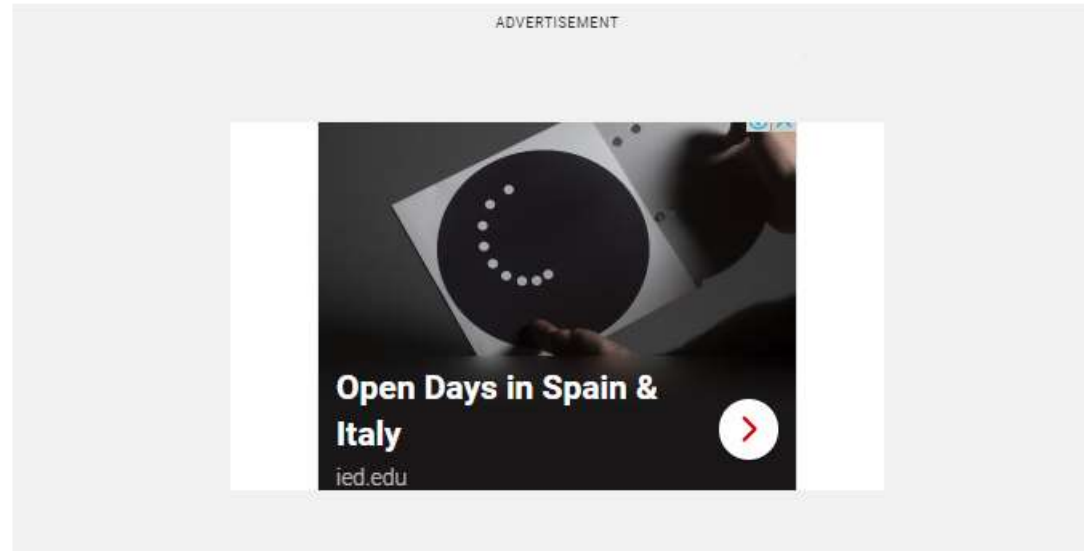
Like Chartered Accountants sign audited reports, in the future there will be certified cyber audited professionals to sign cyber audit reports, says IIT Madras' Director V Kamakoti

BY BL CHENNAI BUREAU

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A person wearing a dark hoodie is seen from behind, holding a laptop that glows with light. The background is a complex digital interface featuring various financial charts, including line graphs and candlestick patterns, overlaid on a dark blue grid. The overall aesthetic is futuristic and data-driven, representing the intersection of technology and finance.

Ethical hacking is going to be the next big employment opportunity for students, said V Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras. He told students to not get carried away by the negative perception of ethical hacking. He added that there is a great future in this sector. "Please work on this sector and pursue this as a career and I am sure, if not today, but in the next couple of years. You will have great years ahead," he said at an event on cyber security held in the institute on Wednesday.



→ **Also read:** [Laptops, PCs face 1 million cyber threats every day in India: Report](#)

He emphasised that those who are working in the area of cyber security should continue to work on it. There are very big challenges in the sector, he said in his address at the PALS, an IIT Alumni Initiative - PALS - ECU (Edith Cowan University, Australia) "CYBER EDGE 2024" Building Cybersecurity Capabilities.

He said that the students have a great career opportunity in front of them as the whole world is facing big challenges in cyber security. Like the Chartered Accountants signing the audited reports, in the future there will be certified cyber audited professionals to sign cyber audit reports, he said.

“Staying safe in the digital world is something that is evolving on a daily basis. I have been working in this [cyber security] area for the last 15 years. I am a member of the National Security Board. If you ask me the question if you are safe in the cyber world, the answer is no,” he added.



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"Beauty of democracy lies in Janbhagidari," PM Modi pens open letter for countrymen

He mentioned that in G20 there was a separate vertical for cyber security. To add salt to the wound, there is now the bad part of Artificial Intelligence adding more worries on the issue of cyber security, he said.

Cyber security needs a holistic treatment, he said. A big combination of government for regulation for policies; academia for putting certain processes in place and the industry to implement it and take it forward, he added. For a safe cyber world, the one and only way required is a strong academia-industry-government collaboration, understanding the policies and putting them together, he said.

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Tamil Nadu's IT minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan quoting a speaker at the recently held Umagine in Chennai about cyber security, said, "if you are going to be in cyber security, you will not be unemployed for the next 40-50 years." This gives a sense of the job opportunities in the cyber security sector. A case in point on the challenges of cyber security was the attacks on Facebook and Instagram on Tuesday. These are small organisations, he said.

The minister said a lot needs to be done in cyber security in Tamil Nadu, and the government is looking at partners and a new approach as soon as the Model Code of Conduct is over. "We need to standardise and bring everything in to same framework. Right now, the government of Tamil Nadu has 50 different platforms, applications, interceptors. I have no idea [as an IT minister] about the scale of the risk profile and the shape of it," he said.

For students, cyber security is a wonderful career opportunity and the government needs more specialists as the threat is increasing day-by-day. With the advent of AI, there will be new forms of threats, he said.

Bnn Breaking- <https://bnnbreaking.com/world/australia/tamil-nadu-leads-in-employment-readiness-partners-with-australia-for-cybersecurity-conclave>

Tamil Nadu Leads in Employment Readiness, Partners with Australia for Cybersecurity Conclave

State Minister Palanivel Thiagarajan announces Tamil Nadu's advanced employment readiness at PALS-ECU Cyber Edge 2024, highlighting education and international collaboration.



Geeta Pillai

06 Mar 2024 09:09 EST



Tamil Nadu Leads in Employment Readiness, Partners with Australia for Cybersecurity Conclave

At the heart of Chennai, a significant announcement was made by State Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services, Palanivel Thiagarajan, declaring Tamil Nadu's superior employment readiness compared to the national average. This assertion was made during the PALS-ECU Cyber Edge 2024 conclave, a collaborative effort between the Indian state and Australia, aimed at preparing the youth for future challenges in cybersecurity.



Building Bridges Through Education and Technology

Palanivel Thiagarajan highlighted the longstanding focus on education in Tamil Nadu under the guidance of Chief Minister MK Stalin, which has significantly contributed to the state's advanced employment readiness. He expressed optimism about India becoming a pioneer in human capital for the coming generation, with Tamil Nadu leading the way. V Kamakoti, Director of IIT-Madras, commended the efforts of PALS, an IIT Alumni Initiative, in educating students across various engineering colleges on cybersecurity, emphasizing the role of such initiatives in fostering innovation among young minds.

Strengthening International Ties



The conclave not only served as a platform for knowledge exchange but also as a testament to the growing partnership between India and Australia. Nashid Chowdhury, Investment and Trade Commissioner, India-Gulf, Government of Western Australia, acknowledged the strengthening relationship and the potential opportunities that lie ahead. The event's theme, 'Staying Safe in the Digital World,' aimed to equip attendees with the necessary knowledge and tools to navigate the digital landscape confidently, addressing the evolving threat landscape in cybersecurity.

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Inspiring Innovation and Security

The collaboration between PALS and Edith Cowan University for the PALS-ECU Cyber Edge 2024 conclave has set a new benchmark in educational partnerships. By organising activities like the PECAN+ Capture the Flag (CTF), a Cyber Security competition, they are igniting young minds towards innovation and security in the digital world. This initiative stands as a beacon of hope for future generations, preparing them to tackle the challenges of the digital age head-on.



THANK YOU

