

e-SafeHER – a Cyber Security Awareness Training Programme to enable one million Cyber Sakhis across rural India

The initiative leverages MeitY's Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Programme and will be jointly delivered by C-DAC, Hyderabad and Reliance Foundation

e-SafeHER aims to build a gender-responsive, community-led model for cyber-safe digital inclusion reaching one million women across India over three years

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C-DAC, Hyderabad, a scientific society under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India and Reliance Foundation, today announced the launch of e-SafeHER, a Cyber Security Awareness Training programme to enable one million women across rural India, to safely and confidently participate in the digital ecosystem.



This initiative is anchored under MeitY's Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) programme through C-DAC Hyderabad, enabling content and training material for dissemination. Reliance Foundation will catalyse dissemination in rural communities across India, working in particular through women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs). This initiative is another step forward to strengthen digital inclusion for women. e-SafeHER aims to strengthen last mile cybersecurity awareness, particularly among women in rural India, who are increasingly engaging with digital platforms for financial transactions, livelihoods and access to essential services. The strategic collaboration between C-DAC, Hyderabad and Reliance Foundation on cybersecurity awareness involves structured training and community-based interventions.



Speaking on the launch of the initiative, Shri S Krishnan, Secretary MeitY, said “In an era where the Government of India is pushing for capacity, collaboration and resilience to ensure that we reach across the length and breadth of the country towards a Cyber Secure Bharat, e-SafeHER is an exciting opportunity where we will bring together the curriculum and knowledge of MeitY's Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) programme. Through C-DAC working together with Reliance Foundation, this initiative will enable women from the remotest rural regions to be safe, seen and empowered. We look forward to a model initiative that can be replicated and scaled up with like-minded partners across the country.”

Sharing a message, Ms. Isha Ambani, Director, Reliance Foundation stated that rural women in India are coming online faster than ever, and underlined their commitment to not only accelerating women's digital inclusion but also equipping them with the knowledge and skills to stay safe. “We are pleased to partner with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), GoI and C-DAC to provide cyber security awareness training through ‘e-SafeHER’ which aims to enable women to build skills and knowledge to stay safe online, as they utilise the power of digital to strengthen their lives and livelihoods. Through this initiative we aim to empower one million Cyber Sakhis in rural India over the next three years, helping them build safe online practices so they embrace the digital world with confidence”, she added.

C-DAC will lead the development, localization and continuous enhancement of cybersecurity training content under the ISEA Project, including multilingual adaptation. Reliance Foundation will leverage its grassroots presence and women's empowerment platforms across rural India, for delivery through a peer-

led, community-based model.

In a phased approach, beginning with training of Cyber Sakhis across Madhya Pradesh and Odisha, the initiative will scale to one million women by 2029 through multi-stakeholder partnerships. Designed for scale and sustainability, cybersecurity awareness is embedded into existing women's empowerment and digital literacy programmes, ensuring continuity without parallel infrastructure. Localized content, audio-visual modules and blended learning approaches will enhance accessibility and engagement. e-safeHER will drive measurable behavioural outcomes, including improved cyber risk awareness, increased confidence in digital transactions and adoption of safe digital practices by participants. Insights from implementation will contribute to evidence-based scale-up and policy integration across the country.

By combining MeitY's national cybersecurity framework, C-DAC's technical expertise and Reliance Foundation's community-driven delivery model, e-SafeHER seeks to ensure that women across rural India are not only digitally included, but also digitally secure.

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