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Q10

What is CyberDome Project? Explain how it can be useful in controlling internet crimes in India.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2019 · GS III · 10 marks · Cyber Security and Money Laundering

Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention.

Core demand of the question

- Explain the **CyberDome** project
- Show how it helps control internet crimes in India, and what must sit around it
- Keep a 10-mark length

Revision summary

CyberDome is Kerala Police's 2016 public-private cyber centre.

It works on fraud, child sexual abuse material, malware and online radical content.

Volunteers and firms supply skill; police retain legal authority under the IT Act.

Nationally it is a template beside **I4C**, **CERT-In** and the cybercrime portal.

Privacy and warrants must bind the model if it is copied in other States.

Introduction

CyberDome is **Kerala Police's** public-private cyber centre, opened in **2016** and built out thereafter. It pulls in officers, IT volunteers, industry and campuses to fight **online fraud, child sexual abuse material, radical propaganda and malware**. For India it is a **state-level model** of how to police the internet without waiting for every district to grow its own lab.

Body

What **CyberDome is**

- A **dedicated facility and network** under Kerala Police with cells for social-media analysis, cyber financial crime, child protection, and technical research.
- **Partnership design:** ethical hackers, software firms and students work under police supervision - a **Make in India / startup** skill pool pointed at crime, not only at products.
- Tools include monitoring of **open-source and reported** content, malware reverse engineering, and support to district stations that lack forensic depth.
- It is **not** a Union law. It sits under State police powers and the **Information Technology Act, 2000**, alongside **CERT-In** and the courts.

Use in controlling internet crime

- **Financial cybercrime:** phishing, fake KYC, UPI and card fraud - the fastest-growing complaint on the national **cybercrime.gov.in** portal. A dome-type lab traces handles, mule

accounts and malware kits faster than a general thana.

- **Crimes against children:** detection and takedown of child sexual abuse material, coordination with **NCRB** and Interpol channels, which ordinary IPC investigation cannot do at internet speed.
- **Terror and radical content:** flagging recruitment videos and coordinated rumour during riots or disasters; this complements **MHA** and **I4C (Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre)** rather than replacing them.
- **Capacity multiplier:** training local officers, so the State is not dependent on a single cell in the capital.
- **Citizen reporting:** helplines and awareness cut the delay between a click and a complaint - the delay in which money leaves the country.

National frame around it

- **I4C** (2018 onwards), **National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal**, **Cyber Swachhta Kendra**, **CERT-In** directions, and **RBI** fraud controls on payments are the Union layer.
- **NDMA** and State DMAs need cyber cells for disaster rumour control.
- **Limits:** encryption, offshore servers, and privacy. A **CyberDome** must stay **lawful intercept and warrant-based**, or it becomes a surveillance brand that courts will strike. The **IT Act** and, later, data-protection law must bind the volunteers as well as the SHO.

Flow diagram

CyberDome Kerala -> Police plus IT volunteers
 Police plus IT volunteers -> Fraud CSAM radical malware
 Fraud CSAM radical malware -> I4C CERT-In RBI
 I4C CERT-In RBI -> Faster trace and takedown
 Faster trace and takedown -> District capacity
 District capacity -> Lower internet crime harm

Conclusion

CyberDome is Kerala's volunteer-backed cyber police hub. It helps control internet crime by concentrating forensic skill on fraud, child abuse material and online radicalisation, and by training the districts. India needs an **I4C-plus-State-dome** pattern in every State, under the IT Act and RBI rails - not a single lab in one capital.

Facts & figures

CyberDome

Kerala Police cyber initiative (2016): PPP lab for social media, financial cybercrime and technical support to stations.

I4C

Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre under the Ministry of Home Affairs: national coordination and the reporting portal.

CERT-In

Indian Computer Emergency Response Team: mandated incident response and directions to service providers.

IT Act 2000

The principal statute for electronic evidence, intermediaries, and cyber offences that State projects such as CyberDome enforce.

RBI payments security

UPI and card-fraud rules that police labs must plug into, because most volume crime is money crime.

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