



## Dark Net

[Source: TOI](#)

Recently, the **National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET-UG)** and **University Grants Commission-National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET)** exam paper leaks on the [dark web](#) before the exam have sparked nationwide protests and concerns.

### ▪ Dark Net:

- The dark net is a **concealed section of the internet** that regular search engines do not index. It can only be accessed using specialised browsers such as **Tor (The Onion Router)**.
- It was **initially developed to facilitate secure, anonymous communication, primarily for government and military use.**
  - However, it has recently become **associated with criminal activities** such as the sale of [illegal weapons and drugs](#).
- Conversations on the dark net are **heavily encrypted**, leaving **no trace of communication between sender and receiver**, ensuring high anonymity for users.

▪ **Indian law does not penalize the use or access of the Dark Net**, as accessing it is legal in India. However, **using it for illegal purposes is punishable under the law.**

### ▪ Malware Risk on Dark Net:

- [Malware](#) flourishes on the dark net, where it is actively traded on certain platforms, **providing cybercriminals with tools for launching cyberattacks.**
  - Similarly, it lurks on dark net sites, poised to infect unsuspecting users, much like it does on the surface web.
- Dark net users often encounter **keyloggers, botnet malware, ransomware, and phishing malware** among the various types of malicious software available.

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# Surface Web vs. Deep Web vs. Dark Web

## Surface Web

- Searchable websites
- E-commerce sites
- News sites
- Public blogs and forums



## Deep Web

- Websites requiring a login
- Email accounts
- Online banking accounts
- Subscription services



## Dark Web

- Sites requiring access through Tor
- Websites not indexed on search engines
- .onion domains
- Decentralized marketplaces



The Vision

Read More: [NEET and UGC Leak Controversy](#), [Dark Net](#)

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